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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 6 | FRIDAY JANUARY 8, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to attend any of the inauguration events scheduled next week?

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INSIDE

Indicted
A Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up a Northwest Airlines flight on Christmas Day is indicted.
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Vampire Mania
Vampire-themed movies and TV shows all sucked up trophies at the People's Choice Awards.
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Loopy Mariah
Mariah Carey lives up to her sometimes loopy reputation at a film festival awards show.
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McPhetres' Garapan office is burglarized. **PAGE 15**

ROTA RECOUNT confirms same results

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission completed yesterday its recount of all Rota ballots cast in the Rota election and reached the same original results.

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NMC's dean of Academic Programs steps down

Pangelinan is new dean for Student Services

RELATED NEWS
- NMC eyes new associate degree, seeks WASC approval. **PAGE 6**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cynthia Deleon Guerrero, the dean of Academic Programs and Services at the Northern Marianas College, resigned from her position yesterday, citing personal reasons.

At the same time, NMC president

See NMC on Page 4

Tinian cop nabbed for alleged sexual abuse of a minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A police officer was arrested yesterday on Tinian for allegedly having sex with a 14-year-old girl.

Police officer Jason N. Ayuyu, 27, was served with an arrest warrant in San Jose, Tinian, at 7:52am for two counts of sex abuse of a minor in the first degree.

See TINIAN COP on Page 4

FRESHMEN LAWMAKERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eleven freshman legislators-elect join members of the Commonwealth Judiciary for a souvenir picture after the "Law and the Freshman Legislator" program that was held at the Judicial Complex in Susupe yesterday. Senator-elect Francisco Cruz and representatives-elect Ramon Basa, Eliceo Cabrera, George Camacho, Trenton Conner, Frederick Deleon Guerrero, Rafael Demapan, Sylvestre Iguel, Felicidad Ogumoro, Joseph Palacios, and Edmund Villagomez are joined by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Associate Judge Romona V. Manglona, and Heather Kennedy, executive director, Law Revision Commission. They were joined for the working luncheon/roundtable discussion by Associate Judges Perry B. Inos, David A. Wiseman and Kenneth L. Govendo. ***See story on Page 5.***

Fitial

Inos

All set for Fitial, Inos inauguration

Micronesian chiefs, federal officials confirm attendance

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

ON THE NET
- www.beneloy.com

Micronesian leaders and federal officials have confirmed their attendance in the inauguration of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Monday afternoon, even as expenses for inaugural activities have so far not involved government funds.

Palau President Johnson Toribiong,

See ALL SET on Page 4

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Local

Transition panel reports advise improvement for 'most' agencies

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Transition Committee chair Gregorio "Kachuma" Camacho said yesterday that the transition reports so far compiled recommend improvements for "most" of the agencies under review.

He said the committee plans to submit the transition committee reports, with the recommendations, no later than Jan. 15, a few days after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos are sworn in.

"Almost all the reports are in and we are finalizing them for submission to the governor and lieutenant governor no later than Friday next week. The reports contain recommendations for most agencies," said Camacho, adding that it would be up to Fitial and Inos to disclose the specific recommendations.

At least 20 individuals are leading the "top to bottom review" of 24 Executive Branch agencies and programs.

Camacho, who is also the chair of the Covenant Party, said there have been no major hurdles faced by the transition review teams because the administration has not been changed. Co-chairing the committee is former Public Safety Commissioner Clyde Norita.

Fitial, founder of the Covenant Party, is only the second governor in CNMI history to be re-elected; the first one was former Republican Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

The Transition Committee initially set a Jan. 2 deadline to deliver the transition reports to Fitial and Inos but other teams asked for an extension due to the volume of work required.

Kilili meets with constituents at local events

While dozens of residents picked up fresh local vegetables or their favorite dinner plates, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) walked through last night's Street Market and a recent Tuesday's Farmers Market ready to meet and speak with constituents who were interested in the Congressman's recent activities and goals for the year.

Setting up a booth complete with informational literature and calendars displaying the latest activities and accomplishments of his office, Sablan also spoke to residents about their concerns and shared some information about upcoming bills he has recently introduced in U.S. Congress.

He spent most of his time wandering the markets, walking up to residents and talking to them on the spot.

"I like how he had made this office so approachable. We get to talk to him and learn about issues that are affecting us from Washington, D.C," said local resident Janice Muna.

The popular item at the booth was the 2010 U.S. Congress Calendar, which people snapped up pretty quickly.

"All of our local politicians should do this. I think that it is great that he is making the time to come and talk to people here at the farmer's markets," said Sabalu Farmers Association president Tony Pellegrino.

Sablan started his "meet and greet" events last December 29th at the Tuesday Night Farmer's Market then held another one last night at the Thursday Street Market and the next event is tomorrow at 7am to 10am at the Sabalu Market in Susupe.

"I plan to do many more events like these throughout the year. Like I said earlier, this office is not mine, it belongs to our people and I am here to share about what we are doing to help better the Commonwealth," said Sablan.

Residents interested in meeting and speaking to Sablan are invited to come to tomorrow's Sabalu Market in Susupe.

For more information, call the Saipan District Office at 323-2647. ***(PR)***

PAULA BERMUDES-CASTRO
U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) shares a laugh with local residents Alana Camacho, left, her son, Joshua and her sister Marie Camacho at the Tuesday Night Farmer's Market as part of his office's efforts to reach out to the community and share its latest activities in Washington, D.C.

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$7.8M stimulus funds OK'd for CUC projects

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven projects worth $7.8 million were approved for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. using federal stimulus funds.

Saipan Tribune learned that four projects would enhance the islands' power facilities while three will cover work on the water and wastewater systems.

Vetted projects for power improvements include $448,000 to retrofit existing streetlights. The bulk of this amount, $346,000 will be spent on Saipan; Rota will get $56,000 and Tinian, $46,000.

The U.S. Department of Energy also approved $300,000 in ARRA funding for centrifuges in two power engines to reduce the amount of waste oil at power plants. Another $600,000 is assigned for lube oil centrifuge in four engine units.

CUC expects to save $141,120 in its annual expenses for lube oil with the use of the four new centrifuge machines. CUC engines are fitted with a centrifuge machines that are used primarily for purifying engine-lubricating oil, which allows infrequent lube oil changes.

CUC was also approved $3.5 million to replace turbochargers in four engines. Exhaust gas turbochargers influence the performance of diesel engines. To deliver optimum performance, engines require high efficiency state-of-the-art turbo charging. Retrofitting existing engines with the latest turbo-charger technology, CUC said, is an effective method of extending engine life while also improving performance, economics, and environmental impact.

CUC project to save 352,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year once turbochargers are replaced in Power Plant 1's engines 5,6,7, and 8. This translates to a savings of $704,000 per annum based on $2 per gallon cost.

CUC indicated that the requests for proposals for these four projects are ready for announcement.

Water, wastewater

A total of $2.8 million for water and wastewater projects was also approved for CUC this fiscal year. These include $1.4 million for well isolation and the contract is expected to be awarded next month.

A total of $1.1 million in ARRA funds has been assigned for the rehabilitation of the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the contract for this project is awaiting the governor's signature.

Another $350,000 in stimulus money was allocated to the lift station collection line rerouting and the contract is expected to be executed next month.

CUC deputy director Abe Utu Malae disclosed yesterday that all these projects were vetted, which means that, of the many projects submitted early last year, these seven were the ones selected for ARRA funding.

The next step is to prepare the contracts for awarding following the CNMI's procurement process, Malae said. CUC has already tapped the services of project managers to ensure the expedited processing of all documents.

Malae said the power projects, once awarded should take no more than 18 months to complete, while the water and wastewater projects have already begun and CUC is looking at 24 months to complete them.

Benefits

The power projects, Malae said, will help reduce the volume of waste oil, allow CUC to recover waste oil and clean it, lengthen engine life by cleaning the oil regularly, and increase output of diesel engines through turbo charging.

The water projects, meantime, will enable the wells to be configured in a more efficient manner, reducing the number of chlorinating stations.

"Wastewater projects are collaborative ones with EPA and DOI. It will make the collection system more energy efficient in terms of pumping costs," Malae added.

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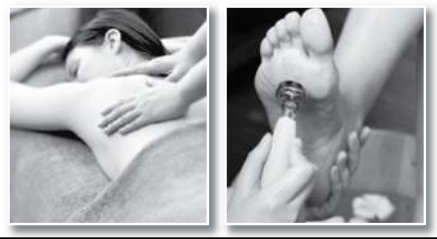

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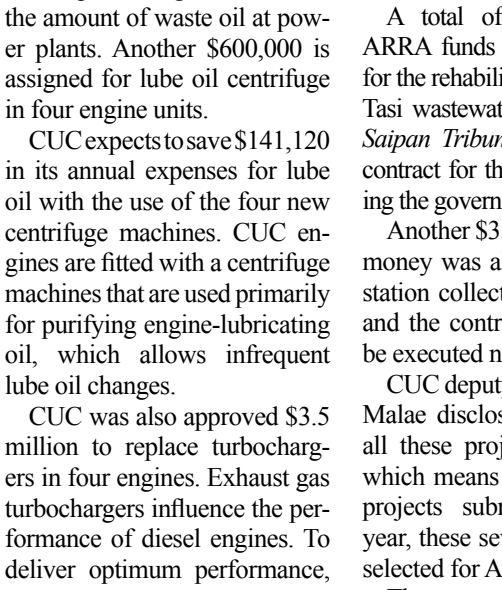
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'It's clear Quichocho performed work for Tinian mayor on loan'

The counsel for the Tinian Legislative Delegation said it was clear that attorney Ramon K. Quichocho was performing work for Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas when negotiations were made on the $1 million loan proposal with the Marianas Public Lands Trust.

In her declaration, attorney Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita said it was evident during the period when they were working on the MPLT loan proposal that Quichocho was doing work for outgoing Tinian Mayor San Nicolas.

Blanco-Maratita said she witnessed Quichocho in constant communication with Tinian Municipality's chief executive officer William Cing about the matter.

Attorney Matthew T. Gregory, counsel for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan and Mayor San Nicolas, filed Blanco-Maratita's affidavit in support of Quichocho's disqualification from the lawsuit due to conflict of interest.

During the Dec. 18 hearing, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona had disqualified Quichocho from representing Tinian mayor-elect Ramon M. Dela Cruz and co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit against San Nicolas and others. The judge said she would issue a written order regarding Quichocho's disqualification.

Accrding to Antonio H. Borja, chairman of the 12th Tinian Municipal Council, Quichocho is the legal counsel for the Council and not the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan.

In his declaration filed in court, Borja said that at no time did he ever consider or regard Quichocho as counsel for the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan or the mayor or acting mayor.

Blanco-Maratita said she has been assisting the Tinian Delegation in the MPLA loan proposal by negotiating, researching, and preparing documents needed in the matter.

Blanco-Maratita said that, on Oct. 30, 2009, Cing informed her that Quichocho had been retained to work on the legal opinion from the mayor and that she should focus on drafting one from the Delegation.

The lawyer said that, on Nov. 2, 2009 she began consulting with Quichocho on matters relating to the loan proposal with the understanding that they are both working on the same matter, with him representing the mayor and she representing the Delegation.

Quichocho stressed in his affidavit that he has never represented the Office of the Mayor or San Nicolas.

Judge Manglona recently issued an order prohibiting San Nicolas and Tinian Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola from entering into any loans or investments with MPLT on behalf of the Tinian municipality without first providing Tinian mayor-elect Dela Cruz and his co-plaintiffs at least 10 days advance notice. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TINIAN COP

From Page 1

The Superior Court warrant set Ayuyu's bail at $50,00 cash. Associate judge David A. Wiseman kept the amount at $50,000 cash during yesterday's hearing on Saipan.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Jan. 14 and arraignment for Jan. 25.

The judge also directed Ayuyu to hire his own lawyer.

Assistant attorney general Mike Evangelista had asked the court to keep the bail at $50,000 due to the seriousness of the charges. Evangelista also asserted that Ayuyu is a flight risk.

In her report, Tinian Department of Public Safety detective Joann A. Pangelinan stated that on Dec. 31, 2009, she received a call from an unknown caller, saying that Ayuyu has a sexual relationship with a female minor.

On Monday, Pangelinan said, she went to a Tinian school where she met with the victim's mother and asked her permission to interview her 14-year-old daughter.

During the interview, the detective said the victim admitted having sex with Ayuyu in two separate occasions.

The girl told the detective that the first time happened on Dec. 13, 2009, and the last occurred on Dec. 23, 2009.

Pangelinan said the teenager also claimed that on Dec. 20, Ayuyu called her a bad word for allegedly having sex with another man. The defendant allegedly later apologized to the victim through Facebook and that on Dec. 23 they had sex again.

The victim's mother told the detective that a few days before Thanksgiving, she saw Ayuyu's picture in her daughter's bag. When she confronted her daughter about it, her daughter said that it's only a picture.

NMC

From Page 1

Dr. Carmen Fernandez announced the appointment of Leo Pangelinan as the new permanent dean of Student Services, a position previously held by Janice Tenorio.

"It is with a heavy heart that I resign from this position to take care of urgent personal matters," said Cynthia Deleon Guerrero yesterday.

She thanked the college for the opportunity given her to serve. "The experiences I gained have been immense and without a doubt a huge and satisfying learning experience. Working with faculty, staff and the administration has been very rewarding, and as always, my greatest joy was in serving our community and contributing to our students' learning. I salute the entire NMC family for all that they do to ensure that NMC serves the dynamically diverse learners of the CNMI," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that she hopes to someday return to NMC to continue serving the community.

In a statement, NMC president Fernandez said she hopes to work with Deleon Guerrero again.

"We are sorry to lose Cyndi as she has made tremendous contributions to the college and its academic offerings. After she addresses her personal issues, we hope that she can join the NMC family again," said Fernandez.

Fernandez said she is proud to have seen Deleon Guerrero rise through the ranks, having promoted her twice during her term at NMC.

"I am so proud to have hired Cyndi back to NMC and to have promoted her twice in her tenure. Cyndi was hired first to be director of Admissions and Records and then was promoted to director of the School of Education and then dean of Academic Programs and Services," said Fernandez.

Deleon Guerrero was appointed dean in July 2009 following the resignation of Dr. Debra Cabrera. On top of this, Deleon Guerrero was also serving as acting chairperson for both the Business and Science and Mathematics departments.

Deleon Guerrero's last day at NMC is on Jan. 15, four days prior to the scheduled opening of a new semester at the college.

NMC has three deans and six academic departments.

Currently serving in permanent capacities are Tee Abraham, dean of Community Programs, and Pangelinan, who was permanently appointed yesterday. One dean position will be left vacant in the wake of Deleon Guerrero's departure next week.

Among the six department chairs, two are serving in permanent capacities: Frank Sobolewski for Social Sciences and Fine Arts and newly hired James Thomas Kline for the Languages and Humanities Department.

The chairmanships of the Business, Science and Mathematics, School of Education, and Nursing departments remain vacant.

New dean

Since Tenorio's departure in November, Pangelinan had been the acting dean of Student Services. Fernandez announced Pangelinan's permanent appointment to the position during an event on campus yesterday.

Prior to this, Pangelinan was the director of the college's Counseling Programs and Services since July 2007. This position will become vacant once Pangelinan formally takes over the dean position today or on Monday.

"I'm so excited and I'm looking forward to the new year. We have to cope with a lot of changes and we have to make adjustments to serve our students' needs," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Pangelinan vowed to work closely with the Associated Students of NMC in his new capacity.

He lauded the college's efforts in securing some stimulus funds that will allow the college to hire key positions.

With the opening of a new semester next week, Pangelinan said he looks forward to serving more students at the college.

NMC was home to over 900 students last semester.

ALL SET

From Page 1

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and first lady Joann Camacho, Federated States of Micronesia Vice President Alik Alik, and FSM Consul General Jackson Gerson are among those who will be taking part in the inauguration.

Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert J. Torres and former Guam Gov. Paul Calvo will also be attending.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs at the Interior Tony M. Babauta, Office of Insular Affairs Director Nik Pula and U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) are also among the dignitaries, along with other CNMI and federal government officials and business people.

CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos will be administering the oath for Fitial and Inos at 3pm on Monday, Jan. 11, at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

"The Inauguration Committee is tying up some loose ends, but otherwise, we are about all set. There have been no changes to the venue or schedule," Inauguration Committee co-chair Teresa Kim told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Fitial, 64, is only the second governor in CNMI history to be re-elected. He won the first gubernatorial runoff election in the history of the Northern Marianas.

He is also the first—and probably the only—CNMI governor who will serve a five-year term as a result of a newly ratified initiative requiring general elections to be held only on even-numbered years. Anyone who succeeds him will go back to serving a four-year term.

Inos, for his part, was the first appointed lieutenant governor in CNMI history, but the general election and runoff race gave him a direct mandate.

Kim, who is also the acting press secretary and counsel for Inos, said, "To date, all the funds are from donations."

"No government funds have been expended," she added.

When Fitial was first elected to office in 2005, his inauguration committee received some $200,000 from the government for his January 2006 inaugural activities.

Fitial and Inos of the Covenant Party came second in a four-way race in the Nov. 7 general elections. But because none of the candidates got at least 50 percent plus one of the votes cast and counted, a runoff election had to be held to determine the winner.

In the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23, the Fitial-Inos ticket beat the Republican tandem of Republican Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, but it was not until Dec. 7 that Fitial and Inos were declared winner when the remaining absentee ballots were received and counted.

Inaugural Web site

The Inauguration Committee has also set up an official Web site for information about the inaugural activities involving not only the governor and the lieutenant governor, but also about the 17th Legislature, the mayors of Saipan, Tinian Rota, and the Northern Islands.

The inaugural Web site can be accessed at www.beneloy.com.

The site aims to assist the public in finding valuable information about the events surrounding the 9th Gubernatorial Inauguration on Saipan, as well as the inaugural events on the municipalities of Tinian and Rota.

A golf tournament will kick off the inaugural activities. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 7am, at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort.

The inaugural Red Mass will be held on Sunday at 2pm at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The inauguration ceremony will be on Monday, 3pm, at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

It will be followed by an invitation-only VIP Ball at 6pm, in the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

An inaugural people's ball will be held at the same time at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan.

Legislative inauguration

The 17th NMI Legislature's inaugural activities will kick off with a Mass on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010, at 5pm at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

The inauguration ceremony itself will be on Monday, Jan. 11, at 10am in both the House and Senate chambers. Lunch will be served onsite at 12pm.

RECOUNT

From Page 1

Supervised by Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja on Rota, the recount began at 11am and was completed at 4:30pm, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

There were 1,405 votes cast.

The recount showed the same results: Melchor Atalig Mendiola prevailed in the mayoral race with a winning margin of 49 votes, while Juan Manglona Ayuyu had a winning margin of 55 in the Senate race.

In a statement, mayor-elect Mendiola said he admires the honest and clean opinion of Judge Naraja.

"I feel that the Commonwealth people should have faith in the Board of Election. The commissioners know what they are doing," Mendiola said.

Attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Mendiola, said his client and the other candidates are pleased with the results, which maintained the will of the people of Rota.

"They look forward to serving their terms and the service of the people of Rota. Mayor Mendiola takes the view that the commission did its job right and the court confirmed and confirmed that again today," Torres said.

Attorney Steven Pixley, counsel for senator-elect Ayuyu, said the results vindicate the Commonwealth Election Commission as well as the decision of the Superior Court that the election counting was done properly.

"My client is very happy that this process is now behind him and commends the Election Commission as well as the court for handling the proceedings well," Pixley said.

The CNMI Supreme Court ordered the recount, citing the Election Commission's violation of election law. In its order for writ of mandamus, the Supreme Court directed the Superior Court to supervise the Rota recount.

The recount only focused on the votes for the Rota mayor, senator, and representatives.

Ross Hugh Songao Manglona and Rep. Victor Borja Hocog, the two losing independent candidates for the House of Representatives and mayoral races, had sued for the recount, saying the Election Commission didn't follow procedures when counting the Rota ballots.

Manglona sued his lone rival in the election, Teresita Apatang Santos (independent), who was elected to a House seat. Manglona also named defendants the two winners in the Senate seat for Rota—Jovita Maratita Taimanao and Juan Manglona Ayuyu (both independents).

In a separate lawsuit, Hocog, an independent candidate for mayor of Rota, sued the winning candidate, Melchor Atalig Mendiola (independent). The two lawsuits were consolidated.

Last Dec. 9, Naraja upheld the Nov. 7 election results for the House and mayoral races on Rota and dismissed Manglona and Hocog's lawsuit.

The two, through counsels Michael Dotts and Joseph Horey, appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

10 new legislators briefed on lawmaking process

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ten freshman legislators-elect and one former lawmaker yesterday joined the "Law and the Freshman Legislator," a bi-annual program initiated by the CNMI Judiciary and the Northern Marianas Judicial Historical Society.

Rep.-elect Frederick Peters Deleon Guerrero (Independent-Precinct 5) said it was a very good and informative program.

"It's eye-opening and interesting. It taught me a few things," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* shortly before the working luncheon/roundtable discussion.

Rep.-elect Joseph M. Palacios (Republican-Precinct 1) said the program provided the new lawmakers, particularly himself, an overview of the three branches of government.

"It gave me an idea as to where to get all the information now. I'm glad that they offered this. I believe it will help individuals, especially a rookie like me," said Palacios.

Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Chief Justice Miguel Demapan, and Associate Justice Alexandro Castro started the program in 2002.

"Each time that we have the program, the participants always recommend that we continue it," Manglona said.

The program, held yesterday at the Judicial Complex in Susupe, provides an overview of the judicial process and features an interactive dialogue designed for representatives and senators-elect prior to their assumption of newly elected duties as lawmakers.

Manglona discussed the role of the courts, while Castro discussed the history of the CNMI Judiciary. Judge Ramona Manglona tackled the questions on statutory interpretation.

In her session, Judge Manglona surveyed some trial court cases and Supreme Court cases where there's some ambiguity in the statutes.

Heather Kennedy, executive director of the Commonwealth Revision Commission, conducted a presentation on how the commission compiles public laws and court opinions and publishes them on CDs and books—all intended to make it easier for the public and lawmakers to define and research any topic of the law.

Of the 11 participants, only Rep.-elect Felicidad Ogumoro previously served as a lawmaker.

Justice Manglona said they invited Ogumoro because "we wanted her to provide some insights."

"She is not a new legislator. She has the experience and during the roundtable discussion, hopefully she will put out valuable information for our participants," said Justice Manglona shortly before their working luncheon/roundtable discussion.

"I'm very happy because we have a new set of legislators this time. They're very young and are all energetic," he added.

In his session, Justice Castro said the Northern Mariana Islands went through several "political earthquakes and super typhoons before we were able to reap the fruits of membership in the American political family."

"These fruits—freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom to peaceably assemble, and the freedom to petition our government for redress of grievances—are the bedrock values of the American political system, which are embodied in the Covenant and the CNMI Constitution," Castro said.

Aside from Ogumoro, Palacios, and Deleon Guerrero, the other participants are Sen.-elect Francisco Cruz, Reps.-elect Ramon Basa, Eliceo Cabrera, George Camacho, Trenton Conner, Rafael Demapan, Sylvestre Iguel, and Edmund Villagomez.

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NMC eyes new associate degree, seeks WASC approval

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College wants to offer a new associate degree program in rehabilitation and human services and is now seeking the approval of the accrediting commission.

During the Dec. 30 meeting of the Board of Regents, members voted to adopt the proposal, which has been transmitted to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College for consideration and approval.

NMC said the proposed degree program will provide postsecondary educational opportunities that will prepare graduates to work in a variety of positions in rehabilitation and human services occupations.

The new program will require additional faculty, equipment, and a new curriculum.

According the Melena Slaven, NMC's director for Rehabilitation and Human Services, there are about 50 students who are waiting to join the program once it is implemented.

"There's a significant need and demand for this type of program in the CNMI," said Slaven.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said she is excited to expand the degree offerings at the institution.

"We are excited to have this opportunity to broaden NMC's degree offerings to include one that would help further advance local capacity in rehabilitation and human services. We hope the accrediting commission approves the program so that we can offer it in the Fall 2010 semester," said Fernandez.

According to NMC, the major program components for the course work required for the degree include a foundation in the arts and sciences, behavioral sciences, rehabilitation and human services courses, and fieldwork experience that allows students to integrate their knowledge and skills under the supervision of a qualified supervisor in one or more rehabilitation and human service agencies.

After graduation from the program, students may seek employment in a range of private and public agencies providing services in the areas of special education, counseling, crisis management, case management, mental health, youth and family support, criminal justice, rehabilitation, higher education, independent living, and protection and advocacy.

Chalan Kanoa Diocese kicks off Jubilee celebrations

By JOVAN I. FRED
jovan_fred@saipantribune.com
REPORTER-TRAINEE

The Chalan Kanoa Diocese will be kicking off the celebration of its 25th year anniversary tomorrow, Jan. 9, with Jubilee prayer services at the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7pm. The services will be held for nine days with the Liturgy of the Hours (Evening Prayers) and Novena to the Holy Spirit.

JOVAN FRED

From left, Jubilee committee officials Charles and Cathy Cepeda, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, and Fr. Ike Ayuyu.

For the first time, the 13 parishes that comprise the diocese will be joined as one for the special event, with each parish designated to host one of the nine days.

"The event is to have everyone together and celebrate for all the years of blessing of the diocese and its 25 years. We have many blessing from the diocese and we thank God for all," said Fr. Ike Ayuyu, who heads one of the committees overseeing the Jubilee celebration.

The diocese will commemorate the actual date of its 25th anniversary on Jan. 13, 2009, with a 6am Mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral, attended by all priests from other Saipan churches. This means all 6am Masses at all other Saipan churches will be moved to the Cathedral, Ayuyu said.

On the ninth day, Jan 17, the diocese will host a Thanksgiving Mass for the whole CNMI at 3pm, marking the launch of the Jubilee celebrations. The event will also honor Bishop Tomas Camacho, who has retired after 25 years of service as shepherd of the local Catholic faithful.

"The Pacific Island's Archbishop Charles D. Balvo and Agana Archbishop Anthony Apuron will be present as VIPs for the event," said Ayuyu. "A lot of good things have grown within the past 25 years and giving thanks is important to the diocese. Faith have grown and we thank God for the 25 years."

All parishioners are invited to attend the Thanksgiving Mass. Artwork of Mt. Carmel School students will be displayed and four choirs will be singing.

After the Thanksgiving Mass, a dinner banquet that will also serve as a kickoff fundraiser will be held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"It is a kickoff and preparation for the new bishop," said Charles Cepeda, who chairs one of the Jubilee committees.

He said many equipment need to be replaced such as the electronic system and chairs but there is not enough funds. "The renewal of some of the things in the church is another way of taking care of the Catholic Mother Church and in welcoming the new bishop. Money is not the only donation the church is asking for but anything that will enhance the church," he said.

The CNMI became a diocese separate from Guam in 1985 with the installation of Bishop Camacho.

Other Jubilee committee officials are Fr. Ryan Jimenez and Cathy Cepeda.

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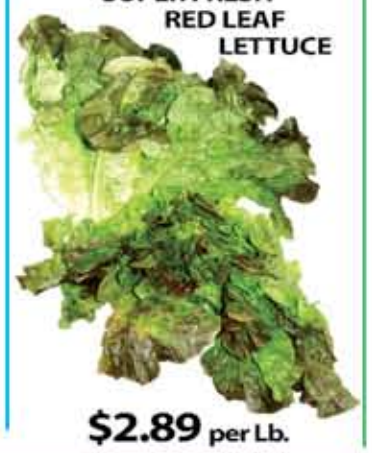

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Two indicted for fraudulent marriage

The U.S. government has filed charges against two persons for allegedly conspiring to enter into a fake marriage in order to get a "green card."

Crisanto Maderal Olivos and Maria Calipay Maderal Camacho were indicted on charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S. and to commit immigration document fraud, and immigration document fraud.

The indictment was filed on Tuesday, but it was only yesterday when U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex Munson unsealed the matter.

According to the indictment, Olivos, Camacho, and a U.S. citizen conspired to defraud the U.S. by having Olivos marry the U.S. citizen on Sept. 9, 2005. The marriage was arranged and witnessed by Camacho, who allegedly paid the U.S. citizen to marry Olivos.

Olivos then allegedly took steps to make the marriage appear legitimate by, among other things, opening a joint checking account with the U.S. citizen at the Bank of Hawaii.

Part of the conspiracy was for Olivos, with the help of Camacho, to obtain a U.S. permanent resident card, or "green card."

A "green card" authorizes the holder to live and work in the U.S. on a permanent basis.

On Jan. 4, 2007, Olivos received his "green card." On Aug. 17, 2007, he divorced the U.S. citizen, according to the indictment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

DEADLINE EXTENSION TO THE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To Participate in Zoning Office's Island-Wide Junk Car Removal & Recycling Program

The Zoning Office is interested in receiving Expressions of Interest for the removal of junk vehicles by qualified towing and recycling operations. Responding companies must be willing to pick up any and all junk vehicles identified and processed by the Zoning Office at no charge to the CNMI government. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 junk vehicles on the island of Saipan.

All companies wishing to register for this program must have a valid recycling permit from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Please include in your Expression of Interest a description of your firm's operations, permits and number of vehicles that can be taken per month. Interested companies need to be willing to take large and small vehicles in any condition.

The Zoning Office will take every qualified company that submits an Expression of Interest, but reserves the right not to select any of the responding companies for the program. The Zoning Office will publish the approved list of the selected company or companies and advise the public of the start of the program. The Zoning Office will provide an equal number of vehicles to each approved company on a rotating schedule to be determined.

Submissions should be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Junk Car Removal"

Format of submission
- On 8 1/2" x 11" on company letterhead
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: "Junk Vehicle Program")

Where and when to submit and questions
Address your questions, the Expression of Interest and other correspondence to:

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp

Attn: Junk Vehicle Program.

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, January 15th , 2010.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair

Red flag up at 9 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on nine Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico Dump, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Garapan Beach, Chalan Piao Beach, Hopwood School Beach, and San Antonio lift station.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. ***(DEQ)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 8, 1999

PSS travels cost $400K

The Public School System has spent $417,256.76 for travels from October 1997 to December 1998, and Board of Education members say this does not speak well of the school system at this time when the education budget is running short. BOE member Ester Fleming calls the spending "excessive." "This looked like we satisfied ourselves first," Fleming said. The funds were drawn from local and federal sources and went toward training of staff and BOE members and attendance of conferences.

Investors propose clinic for Japanese

A group of Japanese investors met with two key government officials yesterday to discuss a proposal to convert the Royal Taga Hotel into a clinic to cater to the elderly Japanese in the CNMI. The plan is expected to drive up tourist arrivals from Japan and resuscitate the ailing CNMI tourist industry. The investors, whose company was not known as of press time, made initial discussions with Marianas Visitors Authority board Chairman David M. Sablan and Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. Their meeting was closed to the press.

Jan. 8, 2001

More savings scam victims come out

Investigators said the amount collected from 45 Chinese garment factory workers by a couple who perpetrated the savings scam on the island has already reached over $100,000. Twenty more workers will be filing their complaint with the police this week as they admitted having been duped into depositing their money to Zhida Market, owned by Chinese couple Lin Zu Xiu and Li Rui Yuan. The workers who were victimized were from L&T Garment Factory, Mirage Garment Factory and its sister company Commonwealth Garment Factory. Police said the entire amount collected by the couple from the garment factory workers will be determined this week as they hope to complete the gathering of statement within that period.

Private health providers eyed to handle GHLI

Legislators will ask members of the Health Commission for suggestions on how to resolve the unpaid debt of the Government Health Insurance as they raised the possibility of allowing a private health provider to handle the program temporarily. Rep. Malua Peter, chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare, has expressed concern on the liability which the government will face in case of a possible lawsuit from a GHLI member. Since last year, members of the government health insurance are turned away by health providers in Hawaii due to non-payment of debt of the GHLI. While there have been previous meetings with legislators and Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, the agency now managing the health insurance, officials have yet to identify the source of funds which will be used to pay the debt.

Jan. 8 2002

No 'sine die' for Senate but House to hold one on Friday

The 12th House of Representatives will be holding its *sine die*, or last session, this Friday not at its usual site—the House chamber—but at the Commonwealth Development Authority building in Gualo Rai. This was decided during yesterday's leadership meeting, after learning that the ongoing renovations being done at the legislative building for the upcoming January 14 inauguration will not be finished by Friday. "Because of some touching up and the ongoing preparation for the inauguration of the chamber, the Speaker [Benigno R. Fitial] wanted to find out if the House chamber will be available for the *sine die*. Unfortunately, the renovations will not be finished by then, so the sine die will be at the CDA conference room at 10am Friday," said incoming House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider.

Saipan hosts business confab for Japanese firm

The Marianas Visitors Authority welcomed 914 officials and employees of Japan-based anti-pest control firm Asante Company Limited, who arrived on Saipan for a five-day business conference this week. In a dinner party held Sunday night at the Diamond Hotel, MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio expressed appreciation to company executives for choosing Saipan as the venue for its annual business meeting this year. Tenorio and MVA deputy managing director Vicky Benavente led local tourism officials in the reception party hosted by the agency for Asante officials and employees.

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Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 6

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

AmeriCorps' success is changing minds

MCCLATCHY
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

When the national service program AmeriCorps was established in 1993, it had its share of harsh critics.

There were those who felt it was simply a feel-good move by the Clinton administration.

Many complained that it was not true volunteerism because participants were offered stipends and, after they completed their assignments, they received money toward college tuition.

Sixteen years later, AmeriCorps is regarded as a huge success and is heralded by many nonprofit, city and state agencies as a crucial supplement to their usually underfunded and understaffed programs.

Since the establishment of AmeriCorps, more than a half-million people—many between ages 18 and 24, as well as a growing number of senior citizens—have volunteered to serve their country in a range of efforts.

Among other things, they're helping c hildren and youths achieve educational success; assisting in area health-care initiatives; working to clean up the environment; aiding veterans, active-duty members of the armed forces and their families; and building housing.

And there is a huge multiplying effect with all of this volunteer effort.

In working with more than 4,100 nonprofit, faith-based and community groups last year, AmeriCorps members "mobilized or managed 2.2 million volunteers for the organizations they serve," according to the agency that administers the program, the Corporation for National and Community Service.

This year, the number of AmeriCorps applicants more than doubled, up from 91,000 in 2008 to 233,000. That was partly in reaction to President Barack Obama's call to service to young people and partly a result of the struggling economy.

While there were those who signed up because they could not find a job, countless others joined out of a sense of duty to community and country.

When it comes to volunteering, no country surpasses the United States in the number of people or number of hours devoted to community service.

The national service program has provided an infusion of thousands of intelligent, talented young and older people who are making an incredible difference in struggling organizations and agencies throughout the country.

A happy byproduct of this wave of young people volunteering is that the experience can lead to a lifelong habit of working on behalf of the community.

With the passage of the Serve America Act this year, authorizing $6 billion for expansion of public service projects, officials say AmeriCorps could add 250,000 jobs over five years.

Congress has recognized the organization's value and in December increased the 2010 budget to the highest level in the history of the corporation.

All service to this country should be appreciated, whether it is youngsters tutoring peers in junior high school or servicemen and women fighting on foreign soil.

We pause during this season of giving to offer thanks to all those who volunteer through AmeriCorps, a program in which participants can see the effects of their work daily.

(c) 2010, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

A man with a tape recorder up his nose

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

This promises to be the wackiest year in economics yet, or at least the wackiest one so far in my career. So, though I always look forward to writing this column, this year I'm doggone enthusiastic about things, smiling like a Monty Python devotee hearing the opening music for a new episode of zany, madcap antics.

So now for something completely different: A man with a tape recorder up his nose.

Oops, sorry, that was a Python flashback. How about, then, a man with three folders on his desk.

These folders comprise the CNMI's economic universe. As simple as this sounds, dividing things up into discrete sub-sets will enable us to think more clearly about the economic situation as the year unfolds, at least in the "macro" (big picture) sense. Not that I'm trying to sell clear thinking to our Nabobs of Nepotism; I tried that a while ago, but they prefer corruption.

Anyway, here are our three folders:

1 The CNMI itself

This is our only "endogenous" folder, which is an upper-class twit way of saying internally-generated factors. To draw an analogy, if you are sailing a boat on the ocean, the way you steer the boat is an "endogenous" factor, it's something that you control.

2 Uncle Sam

This is an "exogenous" factor, which, as you have probably surmised, is a snotty way of saying it's externally determined. Yeah, yeah, I know that the CNMI is U.S. flagged, but the U.S. economy is essentially an external factor to the CNMI; we don't control it one little bit.

I need not review the importance of Uncle Sam: He supports the CNMI economy; with the exception of the remnants of the tourism sector, just about all other CNMI economic activity is a direct, or indirect, result of U.S. aid. This sounds simple, and it is simple, but there's more to it than meets the eye, which we'll cover in the near future, at which point I'll show how Uncle Sam is actually more important to the CNMI than most people think.

Oh, more of my analogy: As you sail your boat on the ocean, the state of the sea and the weather are "exogenous," they are determined by outside forces.

3 Industrial Asia

Industrial Asia is also an exogenous factor for the Commonwealth. It is our only intrinsically viable source of tourists; it is one source of capital (probably the world's best); it is one source (probably the best also) of technical and management expertise; and it is one source of airline service.

There's lots to be said about industrial Asia, of course, which will command much of our attention this year. If (if, I say) the CNMI wants a private-sector based economy, it will have to learn a lot about industrial Asia, but that's way beyond my scope today.

And now for something completely different: A little yellow sticky note.

That note says "oil." Exogenous too, of course, unless you strike Texas Tea in Chalan Kanoa. But there's no point in really worrying about oil prices; there's nothing any of us can do about it. So, oil doesn't even merit a folder, all it gets is a little yellow sticky note on the wall, as a nagging reminder that it's out there.

Well, economically, we're off to a good start for the year, January is still young and we've already separated everything that probably matters into definable categories, to be picked up and scrutinized here as the year unwinds. The most stable factor in the mix is, believe it or not, the CNMI itself; the Commonwealth is a remarkably consistent place; heck, even our inconsistencies are consistent. So it's an easy economy to forecast, broadly speaking, as I've done for you consistently in this space since 1997.

So, why do I go to the trouble to lay out my basic categories of economic folders? Because the the future changes in the CNMI situation are going to be of a different nature, and magnitude, than the changes we've seen since the 90s. The risks aren't as obvious, or at least as straightforward, as they used to be.

Indeed, there is zaniness on the horizon. So sorting things out at least prevents muddle-headed blurring of factors, which might not be fun, but having a few folders on the desk beats the heck out of having a tape recorder up your nose.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The cost of 'diagnostic creep'

By CHARLES LANE
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To the list of reasons Congress may find it difficult to rein in health-care costs, add "diagnostic creep."

Step One: Society medicalizes imperfections that formerly were either not defined as disease or thought to be too minor or too intractable for treatment. Rambunctiousness becomes attention-deficit disorder; impotence becomes erectile dysfunction; snoring becomes a symptom of sleep apnea.

Step Two: Scientists discover treatments; government approves them; companies market them; physicians prescribe them; patients demand them.

Step Three: Disease definitions expand to encompass more marginal cases and treatments while testing expands to deal with more nuanced symptoms. Ritalin gives way to time-released stimulants; Viagra gives way to Cialis; sleep apnea comes in three varieties, mild, moderate and severe, identified through millions of dollars worth of high-tech sleep studies.

Diagnostic creep sounds bad, but it obviously can be very good. Many children (and adults) have been helped by increased awareness of ADD and other previously unrecognized psychiatric conditions; drugs can indeed resolve their symptoms. People who don't snore get better sleep; they're at diminished risk for conditions such as high blood pressure; they produce more at work; they are more alert behind the wheel. Who am I, or anyone else, for that matter, to draw the line between the common and milder form of bone loss known as osteopenia and dangerous osteoporosis, both of which Merck has pushed to treat by expanding the marketing of its bone-strengthening drug Fosamax, as NPR's Alix Spiegel noted in a fascinating recent report?

But that's just the point. Health-care cost containment is all about separating problems that are dangerous enough to warrant coverage from those that aren't. Americans have become accustomed to the opposite of line drawing. In large part because someone else — insurance — pays, they have been habituated to consuming more and more life-improving treatments. Indeed, they've come to feel entitled to do so.

The health-care legislation being negotiated proposes to deal with spiraling costs via an excise tax on "Cadillac insurance plans" and a government panel to define what works best medically. I suppose those will have an impact. But to the extent they do, it can only be by pushing back against the public's sense of entitlement. We've already seen the reaction against a study that suggested many mammograms are unnecessary or counterproductive. Is government going to stop covering bone-density tests, much less deny women with osteopenia their Fosamax? I'll believe it when I see it.

The writer is a member of The Washington Post editorial page staff.

Letters to the Editor

An appeal to the Garment Workers Trust Fund

In every corner of the island, former garment workers are very much visible, grouping together hoping that someone can share some good news such as part time jobs, settlement hearings of unpaid salary claims, letters from the garment workers trust fund, among others. I've seen them roaming around on the streets, hitching from one place to another with neighbors and friends to find a decent job in order to survive while waiting for their unpaid salaries and other collectibles due them from their former employers.

It makes me wonder how these garment workers sustain their daily needs such as food, shelter, and all other personal needs since there have been no garment factories on the island for some years now. I wonder what their future on the island will be without a possible employer that will hire them based on their field of expertise. They said they had been cheated by their employers and had been left behind on an island that is also suffering due to the global economy. The impoverished foreign garment workers who were promised a decent job now have no hope of having that promise fulfilled. I wonder what their families back home think about them if they don't get a penny from their parents abroad. They left their homeland to work overseas, promising their children an education, decent living and enough food on the table. But now that they are jobless for almost two years, how do they manage to send a penny to their families?

According to Timothy H. Bellas, chairman of the Garment Workers Trust Fund, "it is important to remember that only SCMs (former garment workers working for certain garment factories involved in the class action suit) were entitled to a distribution of this money. In other words, *not every garment worker was entitled to a payment from the settlement.*"

Why are not all garment workers entitled to payment from the residual fund? The reality is that they are former garment workers, and some had been working in the industry for a decade. Please note that I am talking here of the residual fund from the Garment Workers Trust Fund. Giving this fund to any charitable institution(s) denies these former garment workers their right, even if they did not participate in the class action suit. While it is true that only SCMs are entitled to receive the first distribution, the trustees of the Garment Workers Trust Fund should consider *humanitarian reasons* to enable those garment workers who were not part of the class action suit to become a party in the second distribution because this money is only the residual amount from the first distribution. The Garment Oversight Board should prioritize all former garment workers who had been involved in the garment industry, rather than giving it to charitable institutions based on the legal doctrine of cy press. Charitable institutions cover a lot of miscellaneous activities and have no specific beneficiaries (such as former garment workers only) and will not give a direct benefit to former garment workers, not unless they are living on the street and begging for food and shelter.

Sometime in early June 2001, court officials ordered garment factory workers (unnamed) to support the class action lawsuit against garment factory owners. A lot of these garment workers backed the class action suit by signing their names on the class action suit document. As a result of that, some of these workers received money sometime in 2004. Now they are being neglected simply because their names does not appear on the list from the Department of Labor and from the Office of the Ombudsman that were forwarded to the Garment Workers Trust Fund office. To date, many of these garment workers were denied their share in the residual trust fund.

I was one of those who volunteered to solicit "food for displaced garment workers," which was spearheaded by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in 2004. Working as chairman of the Overseas Filipino Workers Welfare Committee in 2004, many of these garment workers came to me for any assistance that we could extend. A lot of these garment workers are still on island, suffering from hardships due to unavailable jobs related to their expertise. I am therefore *appealing* to the U.S District Court (for NMI) not to apply the doctrine of cy press in this case and instruct the trustees to re-evaluate their list of recipient garment workers and entertain those garment workers who are *physically* present on the island, rather than giving it to those who are already off-island, the result of which is that many checks are unclaimed.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Thank you for the honor

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of the CNMI House of Representatives for passing House Resolution 16-104 in my honor on Tuesday of this past week. Though I consider myself a wordsmith, I have never been very good at speaking extemporaneously. I could not come up with what I felt would be a proper acknowledgment and thank-you at the time, and it left me feeling that I had not adequately shown my appreciation.

Any number of people have told me, at one point or another, that they liked, or agreed with, what I had written in one of my columns, but not until the presentation by the House, and the one the previous week by the CNMI non-voting delegate to the U.S. Congress, had I had any sense of the impact my writings seem to have had on so wide an audience. It is a daunting realization, and leaves me very humbled (as well as speechless!).

That the members of the House would all (with the exception of Rep. Stanley T. Torres, who crossed out his name on the list of members presenting the resolution—though the cross-out is not initialed), agree to publicly honor me, despite the many criticisms of the House as a whole and of individual members that have appeared in my column over the years, despite my being an "outsider," makes the recognition all the more telling, meaningful, treasured.

Thank you. I was greatly touched, feel deeply honored.

I would, as well, like to thank all those who have offered congratulations upon my being recognized by the House. I am overwhelmed!

I would be remiss if I did not recognize, thank, as well, the many people who were also involved in the several public "protests" and campaigns which were mentioned in both documents. Those were not done single-handedly—others also participated.

Recognition must also go not only to my father, who did much to inspire my sense of right and wrong, but also to my daughter Stacey, who taught me much of what I know about marine, ecological and environmental concerns.

And lastly, I would like to thank those who—to my understanding—were instrumental in initiating and putting together the two documents: Chailang Palacios, Tina Sablan, Gloria Hunter.

If I've omitted anyone deserving of mention, I hope I s/he will forgive me; and if he or she speaks up, I would be glad to correct the error.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Where did the system go wrong?

I want your readers to take a little bit of their time to help me analyze where we went wrong during the civil action taken against Tobias Aldan and the Commonwealth Election Commission regarding the 21 voters that Ramona Rubuenog claimed to be ineligible to vote in the Northern Islands mayoral election.

Take a look at the inconsistencies:

■ During the initial part of the hearing, some of the 21 voters were given a chance to write down who they voted for. Later, some of the 21 voters were asked to orally say who they voted for. Definitely inconsistent as they were not afforded the same opportunity throughout the process.

■ 21 voters were initially contested. Out of nowhere, an additional five were brought in and four were placed on the witness stand while some of the original 21 voters were dismissed and never given the chance to be put on the witness stand. There had to be a reason why they were originally called in to be challenged in the first place. Now think, where did these additional five come from and why?

■ These five additional were one way or another closely tied to the plaintiff (sister's son, sister's daughter, brother-in-law and cousin.) But the court allowed the last minute addition, and astonishingly, their votes went toward the defendant. Now think…aren't there witnesses out there who can confirm their presence at the plaintiff's campaign camps? Did this change the outcome? Yes, the plaintiff ended up leading by two votes.

■ The plaintiff herself claims that she is an eligible voter. I question this as in a span of nine years, I only met her once on Anatahan. To my knowledge, I know that she doesn't own a house there. Now think, aren't there witnesses who can prove whether she did in fact build a house on Anatahan, or disprove her for that matter?

■ On page 14 of Judge Wiseman's ruling, even "under oath," it said that after she finished high school and had a child, she continued to go back and forth to Anatahan. I believe this is an inaccurate statement. Why or how? I will leave it up to witnesses to credit or discredit that statement.

■ Qualified or disqualified, which one is it? During the hearing when my turn was up to be put on the witness stand, I stood my ground and told the truth. I expected an honest and favorable decision, declaring me as "qualified" after giving my testimony. After being declared "eligible," the court in its final ruling reversed its decision and "disqualified" my eligibility. Again, which is which? I was born there, built a house there, managed a school there twice and intend to maintain my residence there. Now think, what makes me less eligible than the now eligible plaintiff? Kind of hard to comprehend.

These are just a few of the flaws that made me think why it went wrong. It bothers me a great deal to see and hear so many inconsistencies, flat out lies and things that made a mockery out of the system. To declare "under oath" that someone did not even know her own brother-in-law (common-law husband of her sister) did not sit well with me and I am pretty sure that your readers out there will begin to question that too. Did we allow some individuals to cheat the system right before our own eyes? Was it a burden on the court to disqualify me instead? For those who told nothing but the truth, I greatly admire your courage to respect and make the system work the way it was made to work. Supposedly!

Jess I. Wabol
Fina Sisu, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲82	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

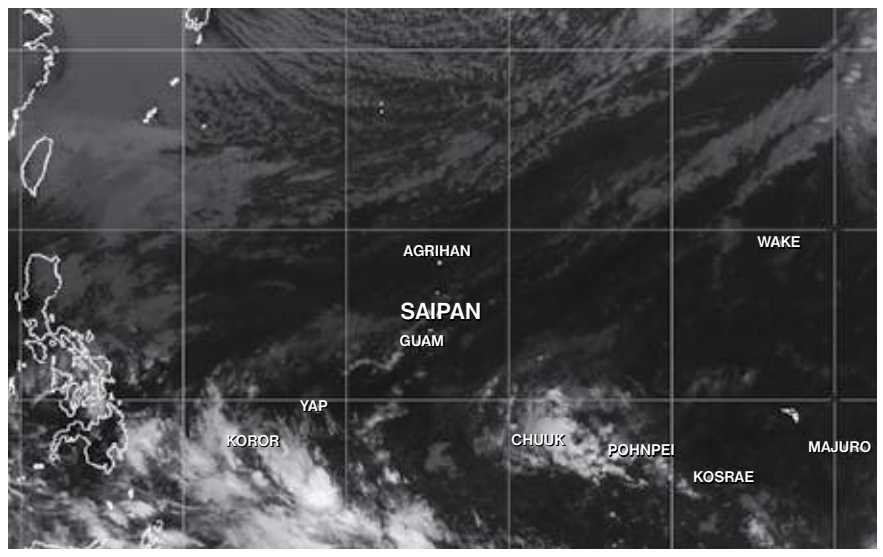
Auckland	Showers	▲66	▼56
Beijing	Cold	▲19	▼17
Hong Kong	Showers	▲61	▼56
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼68
London	Cloudy	▲32	▼27
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼52
Manila	Cloudy	▲86	▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼67
Miami	Showers	▲73	▼48
New York	Flurries	▲33	▼22
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲42	▼31
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲25	▼19
Pusan	Sunny	▲39	▼24
Rome	Rain	▲56	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼38
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60	▼48
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲30	▼16
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲44	▼30
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲35	▼21

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
1:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
9:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N167E to near Anatahan in the CNMI at 16N146E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 9N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 175 miles northwest of this boundary. Another cold front curves southwestward from just northwest of Minami Tori Shima at 25N153E to near the northernmost Mariana Islands at 20N145E to 19N136E and finally to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloudiness is present along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 8N130E to end at EQ148E. Winds converging near and south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Koror or south of a line from 10N130E to 7N140N to 4N141E to 2N146E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Chuuk and Pohnpei between 5N and 9N from 151E to 159E. Trade-winds converging to the southeast of this system are causing scattered showers over Kosrae within 90 miles of a line from 6N159E to 1N168E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Majuro but over Butaritari and Tarawa atolls to the east of a line from EQ172E to 7N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:06 AM	12:17 PM
Saturday	1:20 AM	1:01 PM
Sunday	2:15 AM	1:47 PM
Monday	3:10 AM	2:36 PM
Tuesday	4:04 AM	3:27 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 22, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Tinian, Saipan hearings on military buildup's draft EIS

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By now, concerned CNMI citizens should have been reading some 11,000 pages of documents on the draft environmental impact statement related to the $15 billion to $20 billion military buildup in Guam, which also involves the use of Tinian for military training.

A copy of the draft EIS/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement can be accessed online at www.guambuildupeis.us.

Because Guam cannot accommodate all training for the relocating Marines, the military looks at Tinian to provide opportunities for training groups of 200 Marines or larger due to greater land availability.

Tinian is only about 100 miles or 160 km away from Guam.

The northern two-thirds of Tinian are leased to the U.S. Department of Defense. Company and battalion level non-live fire training areas already exist and are used on these lease parcels.

"The land, however, could be developed to accommodate live fire ranges," the draft EIS/OES stated.

The proposed actions on Tinian include firing ranges for rifle known distance, automated combat pistol, platoon battle course, and field firing; and airspace use.

Comments on the draft EIS/OES can be submitted online, or during the public hearings set by the U.S. Navy in Guam and the CNMI.

All comments must be submitted by Feb. 17, 2010, in order to be considered in the final EIS/OES.

Two of the six public hearings set by the Joint Guam Program Office will be held on Saipan and Tinian, while the other four are being held in Guam.

The public hearing on Tinian will be held on Jan. 14, Thursday, at the Tinian Elementary School. An open house will be from 5pm to 7pm, while the public hearing will be from 7pm to 9pm.

The Saipan public hearing will be held on Jan. 15, Friday, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. A 5pm to 7pm open house will be followed by the public hearing at 7pm to 9pm.

The JGPO said public comments "are an important part of the environmental planning process."

During the open house, the public can both submit written comments and ask questions of programs leaders and subject matter experts. During the two-hour formal hearing, the public can submit oral comments on the draft EIS/OES.

JGPO facilitates the realignment of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam. The agency works within the Department of Defense and with the Government of Japan, Government of Guam, U.S. Congress and federal agencies to lead and manage the delivery of required capabilities to the Marines.

The military buildup involves the relocation of 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 dependents to Guam, and the development and construction of facilities to support the training and operations in Guam and Tinian for the relocated Marines.

It also involves the construction of a new deep-draft wharf in Apra Harbor, Guam to support a transient nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

The buildup also involves the development of facilities and infrastructure in Guam to support the relocation of some 600 military personnel and their 900 dependents to establish and operate an Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force.

The CNMI government plans to provide operational support and services to Guam instead of viewing the neighbor island as a "competition" to maximize benefits from the multi-year U.S. military buildup in Guam.

US Rep. Abercrombie of Hawaii will resign in Feb. to run for gov

HONOLULU (AP)—U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie announced Monday he will resign from Congress on Feb. 28 to run for Hawaii governor.

The 71-year-old Democrat, who has served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 19 years, said he's resigning so he can devote more time to his campaign and to allow state elections officials to plan for a special election to fill the vacancy in Hawaii's 1st District representing urban Honolulu.

"It was a decision inspired by the thousands of people who are frustrated by a collapse of leadership in our community but are encouraged by the opportunity in this new year for a change in direction," Abercrombie said in a statement.

Other likely candidates for governor include Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, a Democrat, and Republican Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona. Republican Gov. Linda Lingle is nearing the end of her second term and can't seek re-election.

In his remaining weeks in office, Abercrombie said he will work on health care reform and legislation that would provide a road map to gradually establish a Native Hawaiian government that would operate in much the same way that hundreds of Native American tribal governments operate.

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Garapan Head Start parents complete parenting program

Ten Garapan Head Start parents have completed the Early Childhood S.T.E.P. classes that were held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 21, 2009.

Facilitated by Elaine Cabrera Dela Cruz, the Early Childhood S.T.E.P classes are designed for parents who have children ages zero through 6. It focuses on a variety of important topics such as child development, discipline, misbehavior, communication, and family dynamics with these children.

The participants attended seven sessions that were held from 6pm to 8pm at the Garapan Head Start center.

Garapan's family partnership advocate, Rhea Penalosa Chong, also completed this program alongside the families she works with.

The Head Start program acknowledged the efforts of Dela Cruz for facilitating the classes; Chong for encouraging the parents to participate and complete the program; Lilia King for opening up her classroom for this purpose (and all Motheread/Fatheread classes as well); and Felicidad Ogomuro, Division of Youth Services' Parent Education Program coordinator, for her efforts in ensuring that this program is offered to the community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants and organizers of the Early Childhood S.T.E.P. program have their picture taken Dec. 21, 2009. From top, right to left, DYS STEP instructor Elaine Dela Cruz, DYS Parent Education Programs coordinator Felicidad Ogumoro, Kaniz Ferdous, Habibulah Ferdous, Rheanna Ferdous, Ranson Ignacio, Emtaaz Chowdhurry,Israt Chowdhurry , Joy Legaspi, Lory Giner,Cathy Torres,Head Start director Keiko Yamagata, Michelle Giuag, and Head Start FPA Rhea Chong. Seated, from left to right, Head Start teacher Lilia King, Kyle and Julius, Eitman, Lucille Kaufer and Ney, Somaitah, Victoria, Elvyn.

Early Childhood S.T.E.P. is planned for the following Head Start centers this spring:

- Dandan center beginning Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2010;
- Oleai center beginning Thursday, Jan. 20, 2010;
- San Antonio center beginning Friday, Jan. 22, 2010
- Kagman center beginning Monday, May 1, 2010
- Tanapag center beginning Wednesday, March 3, 2010.

Parents interested in attending the S.T.E.P classes are encouraged to contact Division of Youth Services Parenting Education Program at 664-2552. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Gear up for MMAC 2010; Team Captain meeting set

The first Team Captains' meeting for MMAC 2010 has been set for Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Chamolinian Room.

Last year, 13 teams worked hard to raise money for cancer awareness, education and patient support for the Commonwealth Cancer Association. This year, teams will unite once again to help bring hope to families and friends currently battling cancer.

Teams can consist of families, friends, non-profit or for profit organizations, schools, etc. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in fielding a team, contact Reina Camacho at 2857677or send an email to MMAC2010@google-groups.com. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon looking for vendors

The Kagman Friday Night Market is looking for interested vendors to sell food, drinks, produce, fish, clothing, and crafts starting on Jan. 15. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market, which takes place at the Kagman Community Center every government payday Friday from 4pm to 10pm. Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Contact 256-7678 or e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com for more information. ***(PR)***

Calling all Palauans

There will be a meeting of all Palauans in the CNMI on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, at Kilili Beach Pavilion at 1pm to meet with Palau President Johnson Toribiong. For more information, contact Eileen Kintol at 288-7538 or Rufino Aguon at 483-6232. ***(PR)***

Extended deadline for NMC Bookstore buybacks

The Northern Marianas College Bookstore has extended its Textbook Buybacks time frame for the upcoming Spring 2010 semester to Jan. 8, 2010. The Bookstore will not be buying back all books that were sold in the previous semesters as newer editions may have been released.

The bookstore business hours are from 8:30am to 4pm daily. For a list of books that may be sold back, visit the Bookstore in Building E at the college's As Terlaje Campus or call Alaysha Muna at 234-5498 Ext. 1300. ***(NMC)***

OES PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Multi-family garage sale tomorrow

A multifamily garage sale will be held tomorrow, Jan. 9, from 8:30am to 1pm, at the Upper Navy Hill. Items include books, bookcases, CDs, toys, clothing, and other household items. Those interested are asked to look for the signs. ***(PR)***

Free science lecture at AMP

Physics professor John N. Hait will be conducting a free science lecture titled "Simple wave and hydropower on a budget: Alternative energy for fun and profit." This lecture is timely, has practical applications for local use, and will show ways of how to make the islands a showcase of Earth-compatible energy generation.

The free lecture will be held today, Jan. 8, 2010, at 6pm, at the American Memorial Park auditorium. For more info go to www.EinsteinCode.info. Also, learn science the easy way with online poetry. ***(PR)***

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McPhetres' Garapan office is burglarized

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The office of former Northern Marianas College instructor Sam McPhetres was burglarized just three days before the New Year's Eve celebration. He lost a laptop and important files stored in three flash drives.

McPhetres' office is located in Garapan between the corners of Dama de Noche and Rose streets.

McPhetres said that the burglary occurred between 2pm and 4pm on Dec. 28, 2009.

The unidentified suspects broke the office's front door and ransacked the entire place.

McPhetres said he left the office before 2pm and returned around 4pm, upon which he discovered the break-in. He immediately reported the incident to the police, which has yet to provide him any update.

McPhetres has been using the place as his private office for about 15 years now. He said this was the first time such an incident happened there.

Saipan Tribune learned that the instructor has been preparing and redesigning his office as part of plans to work there following his departure from the college.

McPhetres' contract was not renewed by the NMC management. He served the institution for over 26 years and established himself as a respected educator.

Last Jan. 6, McPhetres formally bade goodbye to the college.

Indictment charges two with human smuggling

Leonardo M. Rapadas, the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, said that Jian Li and Qing Mei Cheng were indicted on Jan. 5, 2010, on 22 counts of alien smuggling, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2).

It is alleged that defendants attempted to bring into Guam, a territory of the United States, by boat, 22 aliens who had not received prior official authorization to enter and reside in the United States.

Also filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands on Jan. 5, 2010, were criminal complaints supported by affidavits that charged the 22 aliens with attempted improper entry into the United States, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1325(a).

It is alleged that these individuals—Jun Hua Chen, Xiao Yan Chen, Jian Dong, Wenjun Huo, Shi Guang Li, Ping Liu, Wei Li Liu, Yong Jun Li, Jian Bo Yang, Zhi Guo Lu, Dong Wang, Dong Xiang Wang, Qing Xu Wang, Shi Ying Wei, Jing Kai Yu, Yi Wu, Lei Xu, Jun Yan Zhang, Yi Bin Zheng, Zhao Hai Zheng, Wei Kun Zhong, and Bo Zhou—attempted to enter Guam, a territory of the United States, at a time and place other than as designated by immigration officers.

"The arrests are the result of a monthslong undercover investigation spearheaded by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, along with the assistance of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Marshal Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and CNMI authorities," Rapadas stated.

The investigation and arrests were made possible by the CNMI's recent transition to federal immigration control, and ICE's increased presence in the CNMI. U.S. immigration law did not apply to the CNMI prior to Nov. 28, 2009.

While the defendants may have had permission to be in the CNMI under CNMI law, they were not authorized to travel to any other U.S. jurisdiction.

"These are positive developments for the CNMI, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice to make sure that the United States and the CNMI's borders are safe and secure," Rapadas added.

Wayne Wills, the special agent in charge who oversees ICE investigative activities in Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI, said, "Human smuggling is a dangerous, multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise that puts those involved at significant risk. ICE is committed to working with its partners in local law enforcement, the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice to not only disrupt this kind of activity, but to identify and dismantle the criminal organizations behind it."

Members of the public are reminded that the charges filed are only an accusation. The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. ***(PR)***

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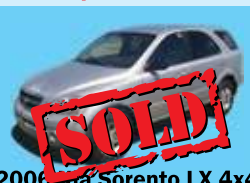
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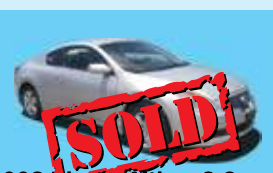
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Public Notice To Our Valued Customers:

The Management's decision to move the date of our Raffle Drawing from January 2nd to January 16th is based on providing the most fair outcome to our Grand Prize Raffle Drawing. Because not all the raffle tickets were received from all our locations on Saipan and Rota to our central location in Susupe on January 2nd the decision was made to postpone the drawing of the raffle.

We also would like to clarify that Joeten will not be distributing or accepting raffle tickets for our 60th Anniversary Grand Prize in order to remain fair to all the participants who have abided by the deadline rules. We wholeheartedly apologize for this inconvenience.

We appreciate your business

Joeten Enterprises, Inc.

NMC registration begins next week

Those interested in enrolling in the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2010 semester can register for classes beginning Monday, Jan. 11, 2010.

The college offers degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

New students are required to take the English and Math placement tests before they register. After taking the placement tests, students can obtain the required slip from the English and Math departments and meet with their academic advisers. NMC academic advisers will help new students fill in registration forms and create class schedules. Students can then finish the registration process in Room D-1.

Application for admissions will still be accepted until the last day of Registration on Saturday, January 16 provided that both placement tests have been taken.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the Library, or the Curriculum Resource Center before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan. 8: Student Orientation for International Students at 10am – 12pm in the NMC Student Center (Building J)
- Jan. 8: Early Registration for SOE Seniors & May 2010 Graduates ONLY (1pm – 5pm)
- Jan. 8: Student Orientation for Resident Students at 5pm – 7pm in the NMC Student Center (Building J)
- Jan. 11: Spring Registration for Students with 30+ credits (9am – 6pm)
- Jan. 12-15: Spring Regular Registration for ALL Students (9am – 6pm)
- Jan. 16: Late Registration (9am – 12pm)

PLACEMENT TEST DATES

English Placement Test Schedule

- Jan. 12: 9am – 12pm (A-6)
- Jan. 13: 1pm – 4pm (A-6)
- Jan. 14: 5pm – 8pm (A-6)
- Jan. 15: 9am – 12pm (A-6)

Math Placement Test Schedule

- Jan. 12: 10am – 12pm (A-9)
- Jan. 14: 5pm – 7pm (A-9)

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NMC hires a new health instructor

The Northern Marianas College recently hired a new health and physical education instructor in the Science, Health, Mathematics, and Athletics Department.

Roland Merar, an educator for over 10 years, has taught at schools such as Maris Stella School, Palau High School, and the Palau Community College. He holds extensive backgrounds in health, education, social studies, and music.

Merar is also a tireless advocate of the improvement of services and treatment for children with disabilities. He has been highly instrumental in the implementation of various physical therapy programs for students with disabilities and the raising of funds for the purchase of assistive devices.

The newly hired instructor has also played key roles in many boards and committees, whose missions focused on enhancing the community's health, educations, arts, and cultural preservation. These agencies include the Republic of Palau's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Mental Health Association Board, and the Tabesul Blengur (Balanced Diet) Committee.

"I am honored to have been selected for the position," said Merar. "I look forward to working closely with the students and guiding them along their paths to success."

Roland Merar

Merar graduated with a master's degree in educational leadership from San Diego State University and bachelor's degree in physical education from the University of Guam.

Outside the office and classroom, Merar is also actively involved in community activities, having represented Palau at tennis matches in the 2005 South Pacific Mini Games and serving in the Palau National Olympic Committee as both an athlete and a coach.

"We are pleased to welcome Roland to the NMC community," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "His wealth of knowledge and experience will surely benefit the college and the CNMI community."

Merar fills the position left vacant when Dr. Kurt Barnes retired in August 2008. ***(NMC)***

NMC alumna set to graduate from the Gonzaga University

The Northern Marianas College continues to produce some of the finest and most talented college graduates.

This coming spring semester, Chellette San Nicolas, an alumna of NMC, will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Gonzaga University. San Nicolas graduated with her associate's degree in Liberal Arts from NMC the same year she graduated from high school at the Northern Marianas Academy, a college preparatory high school, in 2007.

"It was comforting to know that I was able to transfer a majority of my credits from NMC to Gonzaga," said San Nicolas, who was able to transfer all but two classes taken at NMC—philosophy and studio for non-majors. Because of her minor in philosophy program at Gonzaga, San Nicolas was required to take the philosophy course at Gonzaga.

"The best thing about going to NMC was that I got to be prepared for some of the aspects of college life, most importantly when it came to important academic situations, like choosing and scheduling the right classes," said San Nicolas.

After graduating from Gonzaga, San Nicolas plans to pursue a master's degree in Public Administration and Policy, a field about which she is extremely passionate. Looking beyond that, she stated that law school may also be an option but her aim at the moment is to complete her master's degree.

Chellette San Nicolas

"Right now, my focus is on the next step because, like my dad says 'Set a goal, achieve it, and then set another one,'" said San Nicolas.

NMC has played a major role in the great achievements of many of its alumni by thoroughly preparing its graduates for successful careers in a great range of professions.

"We are extremely proud of Chellette's accomplishment," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We also applaud her continued efforts at Gonzaga and admire her future goals of attaining higher education." ***(NMC)***

ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA COOK-OFF

OFFICIAL RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. Eligibility. This contestants who are at least 18 years of age or older and amateurs. Professionals are not eligible to enter. For purposes of this event, "Professionals" are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, including, but not limited to chefs, food editors, home economists, and food preparation editors. Employee of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises and the immediate families of each are not eligible to enter.

2. The ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA Cook-Off will be held at Joeten Susupe on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1pm and will be limited to twenty (20) contestants. Contest registration will be on a first-come, first serve basis. To enter the contest, individuals must submit their name, address, daytime phone number and recipe; all information is to be typed on a 8.5"x11" sheet of paper, to the J.C. Tenorio Shopping Center offices, Susupe, Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm. All contestants will be required to sign the Official Rules upon entering the contest. Each contestant may enter only one recipe for one of the following categories: original appetizer, casserole,stew,stir-fry,salad or sandwich. Each recipe entry must use at least one 7-ounce can from the ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA. Last day/time to submit entry forms and recipe is Wednesday, January 15, 2010 at 5pm.

3. Recipes must not have been published and/or cannot have won prizes or awards in other contests and must not restricted in any way. Submission of the recipes gives Joeten Enterprises, Inc. the right to modify, edit, adapt, publish and/or use the recipe in any way and in any and all media without limitation and without consideration or payment to the entrant.

4. Each participating contestant will be given a Joeten T-shirt. Contestants are encouraged to wear the T-shirt during each competition.

5. Contestants must bring their dish for judging by 12:45pm on January 16, 2010. Any dishes brought in after 12:45PM will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at 1:15pm. Final heating, cooking and presentation preparation may be done at the contest site. Power outlets will be provided. Contestants must bring all required preparation materials such as warming plates,crock pots, etc. The individual who entered the contest must be present at the judging of their dish. Entries will be judged on the basis of taste, originality and overall presentation. The judges will be chosen by J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

6. A first, second and third place winner will be selected. The first place winner will received a year supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna (1 case per month ACE DIAMOND TUNA 12/12). The second place winner will receive 6 month supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna. The third place winner will received $50 gift cetificate.

7. All winners will be required to sign an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release that will, among other things, allow the use of winners' name by the sponsors. Failure to comply with this condition will result in forfeiture of prizes. All applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where taxed, restricted or prohibited by law. All taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

8. Interpretation of the contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises. Any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

9. Contest is sponsored by Joeten Enterprises.

10. Contest void where prohibited. All prizes will be awarded. Prizes are nonrefundable, nontransferable, and cannot be redeemed for cash. Winners must consent to use of his/her likeness and/or photograph for advertising purposes without additional compensation. Taxes on prizes are responsibility of the winner. All recipes become the property of J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., and will not be returned. J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or mutilated entries.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.

ACE OF DIAMOND TUNA COOK-OFF Competition!

Saturday, January 16, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

JOETEN SUSUPE

LIMIT 20 CONTESTANT

WINNER RECIEVE

1st Place Prize - *1 year supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna*
2nd Place Prize - *6 month supply of ACE of Diamond Tuna*
3rd Place Prize - *$50.00 Joeten Gift Check*

To Enter Print the following:

Your name, address, daytime phone number and ACE Tune recipe. *On an 8.5x11 sheet and submit to J.C. Tenorio Enterprises at Susupe shopping center. Monday-Friday, 8am.-5pm. For more information please call 234-6446*

Categories:

Each contestant may enter only one recipe in one of the following categories:

- ***Original Appetizer***
- ***Casserole***
- ***Stew***
- ***Stir-Fry***
- ***Salad***
- ***Sandwhich***

A giant crab floats down Beach Rd., Saipan, as part of local school participation in the 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebrate held on Dec. 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan-da and 2009's Miss CNMI Liberation Isabel C. Muna wave to spectators during the 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas parade along Beach Road held on Dec. 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Annual Christmas in the Marianas draws huge crowds

With nearly 300 participants and thousands of spectators, the 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas held on Dec. 19, 2009, brought holiday cheer and spirit to everyone in the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The event was led by Dandan Elementary School, together with first lady Josie P. Fitial and Remedio Buniag of the Women's Affairs Office.

The event kicked off with Marianas Walking Association's 5km Health Walk at 4pm. Thirty-five participants took part in this healthy event.

Immediately after the Health Walk, the float competition/parade started from the Carolinian Affairs Office, led by Saipanda, sporting his black and white suit, and 2009 Miss CNMI Liberation Isabel C. Muna. Four floats, decorated with Christmas ornaments, costumes, and natural materials, took part in the float competition.

During the parade 300 students from public and private schools, decked with costumes constructed of recycled materials, marched along Beach Road. Participating schools were Oleai Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, and Agape Christian School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island schoolchildren share their holiday spirit in the Christmas caroling competition during the 8th Annual Christmas in the Marianas celebration on Dec. 19 in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

"The excitement kids feel during this time of the year really came through during last Saturday's Christmas in the Marianas celebration," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Everyone enjoyed their enthusiastic participation in the parade and other festivities at American Memorial Park."

The annual Christmas in the Marianas event is sponsored by the MVA, MWA, and Pacific Development, Inc. Other supporters this year included DFS Galleria Saipan, Japan-Saipan Travel Association, National Parks Service, Office of the Governor, Women's Affairs Office, Carolinian Affairs Office, Department of Public Safety/3D Program, IT&E, Chamolinian Cultural Village, Inc., and the Taga Riders. ***(MVA)***

Tickets selling fast for popular female stand-up comedian Anjelah Johnson

DEDEDO, Guam—Wildly successful female stand-up comedian Anjelah Johnson will perform in Guam courtesy of the Heineken Laf Factory at the Hyatt Regency Guam at 6:30pm and 9pm on both Friday, Feb. 12, and Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.

Guam audiences were thrilled with comedian Jo Koy who performed in Guam last October. The Heineken Laf Factory is set to deliver yet again with the ever popular Anjelah Johnson.

Tickets are on sale for $25 each for general admission and $35 for VIP seating and are available at Scooter World in Tamuning, Jamaican Grill in Tumon, and Hagatna and MWR.

Heineken Laf Factory - Anjelah Johnson is presented by the stations of KUAM, Docomo Pacific, Hyatt Regency Guam, Chili's Grill & Bar, Lone Star Steakhouse and Cars Plus with special thanks to Pepsi, Creations Salon, Sobe Life Water, Salon Paradis, The Shrimp Shack, Shell Guam, Jamaican Grill, Scooterworld and Skyy Vodka.

ABOUT ANJELAH JOHNSON

San Jose, California native Anjelah Nicole Johnson couldn't be missed in 2007, when her comedic videos went viral all over the world. "Nail Salon" was one of the most viewed YouTube and Google videos of the year, and, now more than seven million hits later, Anjelah Johnson has a devoted following in comedy clubs everywhere, online communities, colleges, churches and, coming this fall, on television.

Anjelah got her start as a Pop Warner cheerleader, and continued cheering through high school, college, and finally professionally, for the Oakland Raiders. As an Oakland Raiderette, she was named Rookie of the year and performed in Super Bowl XXXVII.

You've seen Anjelah in multiple ads and commercials, including campaigns for Sprint, Visa, Snickers, Verizon, All-State, Washington Mutual, K-Swiss, and Dryers Ice Cream. Anjelah has also guest starred on *The Shield* and *Love Inc.*, and co-starred with Gabrielle Union in the feature film *The Box*.

Anjelah recently joined the cast of FOX's long running hit sketch series MADtv, as a series regular. She is proud and humbled to be one of the first Latina comedians to be invited to join a sketch comedy series.

Anjelah has had the privilege of performing for U.S. troops in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and continues to tour the country, playing to sold-out comedy clubs including Cobb's, The Punchline, San Jose Improv, the Irvine Improv, the Ontario Improv, Brea Improv, Houston Improv and Miami Improv. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

FINAL NOTICE OF DENIALS OF APPLICATIONS
2008 APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS
January 8, 2010, first notice
January 15, 2010, second notice

PARTIES TO APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS FILED IN 2008 (INCLUDING BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS):

Each of the applications to employ foreign workers filed at any time during calendar year 2008 has either been granted or denied by the Labor Processing Section of the Department of Labor. If your application has not been granted, it has been denied. In each case, this is a final action by the Department of Labor. All claims, including all appeals and all claims for eligibility for transfer, if not previously granted, have been denied. Any party who has not been served personally or by mail with the denial is now, as of the publication of this notice, served with the denial. An employer or worker served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the denial from the Labor Processing Section. An employer or worker affected by a denial has until **February 3, 2010** to appeal the denial. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a party, and the time within which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ford says China sales up 44 percent in 2009

BEIJING (AP)—Ford Motor Co. said Thursday sales in China by the company and its local partners soared 44 percent in 2009, highlighting the country's key role in driving demand for global automakers amid weak sales elsewhere. The announcement, following GM's report of a 67 percent rise in 2009 sales, reflected the impact of Beijing's 4 trillion yuan ($586 billion) stimulus plan and incentives to boost car purchases. Industry analysts say China surpassed the United States as the world's biggest auto market in 2009, with total sales forecast as high as 12.7 million units, well above U.S. sales of 10.4 million reported Wednesday.

Global travel group opposes Delta-JAL tie-up

TOKYO (AP)—A group representing business travelers is opposing the proposed tie up between Delta Air Lines and money-losing Japan Airlines as bad for competition. Kevin Mitchell, chairman of the Business Travel Coalition, based in Brussels, said Thursday that the proposed SkyTeam alliance would likely create a monopoly, totaling 62 percent market share on routes between Japan and the U.S., up from a third. The group representing 17 global corporations including health services company CIGNA Corp. thinks Japan Airlines Corp. should remain in its alliance called oneworld with American Airlines, he said.

Samsung expects strong 4th-quarter profit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co. predicted Thursday an operating profit of up to $3.44 billion for the fourth quarter of 2009 after racking up its first ever loss a year earlier. The Suwon, South Korea-based corporation expects consolidated operating profit of between 3.5 trillion won and 3.9 trillion won ($3.44 billion) for the three months ended Dec. 31, according to a statement. Samsung, the world's largest manufacturer of computer memory chips and flat screen televisions, reported a consolidated operating loss of 740 billion won in the same period last year, according to a separate regulatory filing.

Oil falls below $83 as month-long rally stalls

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $83 a barrel Thursday in Asia as investors worried a 20 percent rally in the last few weeks isn't justified by sluggish U.S. crude demand. Benchmark crude for February delivery was down 33 cents to $82.85 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Wednesday, the contract rose $1.41 to settle at $83.18, a 15-month high. Investors have brushed off signs of weak U.S. oil demand while bidding up crude prices from $69 a barrel in mid-December. The Energy Department's Energy Information Administration said Wednesday that crude supplies rose last week.

Joeten Kiyu Public Library

EST. DECEMBER 21, 1991

Your CNMI State Library,

Wishes you and your loved ones Health, Happiness, & Peace in the New Year;

&

Honors and salutes ALL benefactors and contributors in support of JKPL's mission of providing educational, informational, and recreational literacy services to all in our community who call the NMI home.

Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.
— *Unknown*

"Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation."
— *Walter Cronkite*

"With my library card, I am rich."
— *Loreta Jordan*

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Nation

Nigerian man indicted in plot to blow up plane

DETROIT (AP)—A Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up a Detroit-bound Northwest Airlines flight on Christmas Day was indicted Wednesday on charges including attempted murder and trying to use a weapon of mass destruction to kill nearly 300 people.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, was traveling from Amsterdam when he tried to destroy the plane by injecting chemicals into a package of pentrite explosive concealed in his underwear, authorities say.

The failed attack caused popping sounds and flames that passengers and crew rushed to extinguish.

The bomb was designed to detonate "at a time of his choosing," the grand jury's indictment said.

There is no specific mention of terrorism in the seven-page indictment. But trying to use a weapon of mass destruction is a terrorism charge, U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade said.

President Barack Obama considers the incident an attempted strike against the United States by an affiliate of al-Qaida.

U.S. investigators have said Abdulmutallab told them he received training and instructions from al-Qaida operatives in Yemen. His father warned the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria that his son had drifted into extremism in Yemen, but that threat was never fully digested by the U.S. security apparatus.

Since the failed attack, airlines and the Transportation Security Administration have boosted security in airports in the U.S. and around the world. Obama has said the government had information that could have stopped Abdulmutallab, but intelligence agencies failed to connect the dots.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unnamed law enforcement officials, reported Wednesday evening that U.S. border security officials learned of Abdulmutallab's alleged extremist links while he was en route to Detroit and had decided to question him when he landed.

A federal database noted State Department concern that Abdulmutallab may have been involved with extremism in Yemen and officials decided to interview him when he arrived in the U.S., a senior law enforcement official who requested anonymity because the investigation is ongoing told the Times.

The newspaper said it is not clear whether the intelligence was strong enough for Dutch officials to stop Abdulmutallab from flying had they learned of it before the flight's departure, the newspaper reported.

The Department of Homeland Security had no immediate comment on the Times report Wednesday night.

Abdulmutallab faces up to life in prison if convicted of attempting to use a bomb on the plane. He is being held at a federal prison in Milan, Mich., and a message seeking comment was left Wednesday with his lawyers, Miriam Siefer and Leroy Soles.

"This investigation is fast-paced, global and ongoing, and it has already yielded valuable intelligence that we will follow wherever it leads," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a statement. "Anyone we find responsible for this alleged attack will be brought to justice using every tool—military or judicial—available to our government."

Nigerian led privileged life
Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, charged with trying to blow up Northwest Airlines Flight 253 as it approached Detroit, came from a wealthy family.
Age 23
Grew up in Funtua, Nigeria, as a devout Muslim; father was banker, former government official
Education graduated from the British International School in Lome, Togo; degree in engineering and business finance from University College London, 2008
Recent past Cut ties with family; said to have made two trips to Yemen; Nigerian press says he moved to Egypt and Dubai
May 2009 Denied visa to enter U.K. to study at bogus college; name put on U.K. watch list
Path to Detroit
October
Parents ask Nigerian authorities to help find missing son
November
Father warns U.S. embassy in Nigeria that son had developed radical Islamist views, may have traveled to Yemen; name added to terror watch list, but U.S. visa not revoked
Dec. 16
Abdulmatallab paid cash for Lagos-Amsterdam-Detroit round-trip ticket at KLM office in Accra, Ghana
Dec. 24
Enters Nigeria; departs from Lagos on flight; has one carry-on bag, multiple-entry U.S. visa issued 2008 in London
Nigeria
AFRICA
© 2009 MCT
Source: Reuters, AP, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Lee Hulteng, Judy Treible

AP sources: Obama backs high-end health plan tax

By ERICA WERNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama signaled to House Democratic leaders Wednesday that they'll have to drop their opposition to taxing high-end health insurance plans to pay for health coverage for millions of uninsured Americans.

In a meeting at the White House, Obama expressed his preference for the insurance tax contained in the Senate's health overhaul bill, but largely opposed by House Democrats and organized labor, Democratic aides said. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was private.

House Democrats want to raise income taxes on high-income individuals instead and are reluctant to abandon that approach, while recognizing that they will likely have to bend on that and other issues so that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., can maintain his fragile 60-vote majority support for the bill.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and four committee chairmen met with the president Wednesday as they scrambled to resolve differences between sweeping bills passed by the House and Senate. The aim is to finalize legislation revamping the nation's health care system in time for Obama's State of the Union address early next month.

Despite the dispute over the payment approach, Pelosi, D-Calif., emerged from the meeting expressing optimism.

"We've had a very intense couple of days," Pelosi said. "After our leadership meeting this morning, our staff engaged with the Senate and the administration staff to review the legislation, suggest legislative language. I think we're very close to reconciliation."

Congressional staff members stayed at the White House into the evening to continue work, and a conference call of the full House Democratic caucus was scheduled for Thursday. Obama is taking a more direct role than ever, convening Oval Office meetings Tuesday and Wednesday of House Democratic leaders.

Pentagon: More return to fight after leaving Gitmo

WASHINGTON (AP)—One in five terror suspects released from the Guantanamo Bay prison has returned to the fight, according to a classified Pentagon report expected to stoke an already fierce debate over President Barack Obama's plan to close the military prison.

The finding reflects an upward trend on the recidivism rate, although human rights activists who advocate closing the prison have questioned the validity of such numbers.

Early last year, the Pentagon reported that the rate of released detainees returning to militancy was 11 percent. In April, it was 14 percent. The latest figure was 20 percent, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the report had not been declassified and released.

Critics of the reports say there is so little information in the assessments that they are nearly impossible to verify independently. Civil rights advocates say the number of fighters suspected of or confirmed as returning to the battlefield is likely to be much smaller.

Meanwhile, Republicans say the rising number suggests the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, cannot be closed because that would mean either releasing hardened terrorists back into the fight or moving them into U.S. prisons, which many Americans oppose.

"Guantanamo remains the proper place for holding terrorists, especially those who may not be able to be detained as securely in a third country," Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday.

Although Obama said Tuesday that he still wants to close the detention facility, Defense Department press secretary Geoff Morrell suggested Wednesday that such plans were on hold. Congress has put severe limits on the endeavor.

ACROSS THE NATION

Accused Holocaust museum gunman dies in hospital

WASHINGTON (AP)—The 89-year-old white supremacist charged in a deadly shooting at Washington's Holocaust museum died Wednesday in North Carolina, where he'd been held while awaiting trial, authorities said. James von Brunn died shortly before 1 p.m. at a local hospital in Butner, N.C., said Denise Simmons, the spokeswoman for the federal prison where von Brunn had been held. He had been suffering from chronic congestive heart failure, sepsis and other health problems, she said. Von Brunn, who faced charges that carried the death penalty, had been receiving medical care for months at the prison complex in Butner, which is known for its medical facilities for aging and sick federal inmates. His lawyer, A.J. Kramer, called the death "a sad end to a tragic situation" and declined to make further comment.

Father in Colorado balloon boy saga denies hoax

DENVER (AP)—The Colorado father who pleaded guilty to a felony in the runaway balloon saga insisted in an interview set to air Friday that the event wasn't a hoax. In his first television interview since shortly after the Oct. 15 event, Richard Heene said that he believed that his 6-year-old son, Falcon, was in the homemade balloon when it took off from the family's Fort Collins backyard. "We had searched the house, high and low," Heene said, choking back tears during a taped interview for "Larry King Live" that will air on CNN. "I knew he was in the craft. ... In my mind there was no other place."

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-036

Susupe Multi-purpose Center Renovations

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Susupe Multi-purpose Center Renovations, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Monday, December 21, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Monday, December 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Multi-purpose Center, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted by email or in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 29, 2009 to Mr. Chris Fryling, Project Manager, Capital Improvements Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at chris@n15architects.com, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB10-GOV-036". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 19, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time January 19, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 19, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. January 25, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, January 25, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 19, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one forty-five (45) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by forty-five (45) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Asia

Shanghai tainted milk problem kept secret for year

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese authorities kept an investigation into a Shanghai dairy a secret for a year before announcing last week that the company had been shut for producing tainted milk, state media reported.

Authorities in Shanghai found contamination in Shanghai Panda Dairy Co. Ltd.'s products as early as Dec. 30, 2008, and launched an investigation last February, the China Daily newspaper said Wednesday.

But it was only last Thursday that Shanghai's food safety bureau announced that the dairy had been shut that week and three of its executives arrested for selling milk powder and condensed milk tainted with the industrial chemical melamine, which can cause kidney stones and kidney failure.

"The case was not allowed to be released to the public," the newspaper quoted Shen Weiping, an official in the prosecutor's office in Shanghai's Fengxian district, as saying. "The three executives will be prosecuted in a week for producing and selling fake or substandard products."

Repeated calls to the Fengxian prosecutor's office and the Shanghai food safety bureau rang unanswered Thursday.

The apparent delay in notifying the public about the case raises questions about the effectiveness of China's efforts to better regulate its food industry despite several food scares in recent years that exposed serious flaws in monitoring the nation's food supply.

China enacted a food safety law early last year promising tougher penalties for makers of tainted products that also says authorities must immediately inform the public when food products have been found unsafe for consumption.

At least six children died in 2008 after drinking contaminated baby formula and more than 300,000 were sickened in one of the country's worst food safety crises. The scandal exposed the widespread practice of adding melamine, normally used in the manufacture of plastics and fertilizer, to watered-down milk to increase profits and fool inspectors testing for protein.

Shanghai authorities said last week eight batches of contaminated milk powder and condensed milk produced by Shanghai Panda had been found to contain unacceptably high levels of melamine and would be destroyed.

An official with the country's product safety watchdog told the China Daily the case was withheld from the public because it had come under criminal investigation by police.

Anti-whaling boat damaged during protest at sea

SYDNEY (AP)—A clash Wednesday off Antarctica between a Japanese whaler and a boat from a protest group partly bankrolled by former game show host Bob Barker left the anti-whaling vessel badly damaged and each side accusing the other of life-threatening behavior.

The bow of the Ady Gil—a sleek, wave-piercing power boat that resembles a stealth bomber—was sheared off by the Shonan Maru. It was the latest in a series of escalating confrontations between the U.S.-based Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and the Japanese whaling fleet.

Only minor injuries were reported aboard the Ady Gil.

New Zealand's marine safety authority said it was launching an investigation into the clash and that Australia's equivalent body would be cooperating closely.

Japan kills about 1,200 whales a year during the December-February season. Sea Shepherd sends ships to try to stop the Japanese hunt, which Tokyo says is for scientific research but conservationists suspect is a cover for commercial whaling.

Sea Shepherd's aggressive and confrontational tactics have drawn criticism in the past from Greenpeace, which is seeking to change Japanese attitudes toward whaling by cultivating political allies in parliament.

Officials: Suspected US drones kill 13 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Suspected U.S. drone missile strikes killed 13 people in Pakistan's volatile northwest Wednesday, the latest of five such attacks in the past week targeting an area believed to be a hideout for militants involved in a suicide attack on a CIA base in Afghanistan.

The strikes highlight Washington's growing reliance on unmanned aircraft to control militants staging cross-border attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The Obama administration has pressed Pakistan to crack down on such groups, but the government has resisted, saying it has its hands full battling local Taliban militants waging war against the state.

U.S. military commanders are especially concerned about the Haqqani network, an Afghan Taliban group with links to al-Qaida which operates from Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal area. Analysts suspect the group played a role in the Dec. 30 attack that killed seven CIA employees in Khost province, just across the border from North Waziristan.

Since the attack, suspected U.S. drones have carried out an unusually high number of strikes in North Waziristan, part of a larger trend of President Barack Obama using the aircraft more frequently in Pakistan than had his predecessor.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Child soldiers to be freed from camps in Nepal

DUDHAULI, Nepal (AP)—Hundreds of former child soldiers who once fought for Nepal's Maoist rebels will finally be released from the U.N.-monitored detention camps they have called home for the past three years to begin new lives as civilians. Rather than joy at escaping the watch of the armed guards who monitor the barbed wire-lined fences of the camps, many of the young fighters were upset Wednesday at the thought of having to turn in their green camouflage uniforms and leave their comrades behind. "They are all very emotional at having to leave the camps, but they all realize it is something that is necessary to keep the peace process alive," said Gopal Pandey, the deputy commander of the camp in Dudhauli, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of Katmandu.

Sri Lankan leaders woo Tamils for decisive votes

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Just months after winning Sri Lanka's brutal civil war, the president and the former army chief are locked in a bitter election that has forced them to woo the very Tamils they are accused of recently pounding with airstrikes and artillery fire. Restrictions on travel in Tamil areas have been eased, tens of thousands of displaced civilians have been released from detention camps and both candidates have promised more concessions to the minority community. The attention is a major shift for the beleaguered minority. U.N. reports say more than 7,000 civilians were killed in the final spasm of fighting this year as government forces closed in on the Tamil Tiger rebels—and hundreds of thousands of Tamil civilians—hunkered down in the north of this Indian Ocean island nation.

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The project package will be available Monday, December 21, 2009 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Monday, December 28, 2009, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Multi-purpose Center, Susupe. All questions regarding this project must be submitted by email or in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 29, 2009 to Mr. Chris Fryling, Project Manager, Capital Improvements Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at chris@n15architects.com, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

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Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, January 25, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on January 19, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one forty-five (45) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by forty-five (45) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

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/s/ BENIGNO R. FITIAL, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

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INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-041

Garapan Drainage Clean-Up, Orchid Street

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Garapan Drainage Clean-Up, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, January 05, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Orchid Street, Garapan next to Winchell's. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on January 13, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvements Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-041"**. Bidders must submit an original and two copies of sealed bids to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 19, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, January 19, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

World

Slovak miscue lands traveler in jail as terrorist

DUBLIN (AP)—A 49-year-old electrician emerged Wednesday as an unlikely symbol of what can go wrong in the war on terror after authorities in Slovakia planted an explosive in his backpack to test security—then let it travel all the way to Ireland.

The incredible chain of events included a pilot taking off with the explosive on aboard, the closure of a busy Dublin thoroughfare during rush hour and the man's arrest as a terror suspect.

The Jan 24, 2007 file photo shows the airport in Poprad, eastern Slovakia. The Irish police in Dublin arrested a Slovak man who unknowingly smuggled 90 grams of an explosive to Ireland, but released him soon after the incident as this was part of a Slovak police action.

AP

It all began Saturday when a policeman in Slovakia slipped 3.4 ounces (96 grams) of plastic explosive into Stefan Gonda's check-in luggage at Bratislava's Poprad-Tatry Airport as he and his wife were returning home to Ireland after a Christmas visit.

Slovak authorities said the bomb material and a dummy that smelled like explosives were hidden in the bag as a training test for a bomb-sniffing dog, who did pinpoint the fake.

But the police officer in charge got distracted and failed to remove the cache containing the real thing, the Slovak Interior Ministry said. That allowed RDX plastic explosive to travel undetected through airport security onto a Danube Wings aircraft.

While the Slovak ministry blamed the incident on "a silly and unprofessional mistake," Irish officials and international security experts expressed disbelief that the Slovaks had hidden actual explosives in the luggage of an innocent passenger.

"It's unbelievable, it's astonishing," said Rick Nelson, a former Bush administration official who worked at the National Counterterrorism Center. "I'm not sure what they were thinking, using an unknowing civilian rather than an undercover security official."

The incident was bound to heighten the debate over airport security in the wake of the Christmas near-disaster when a 23-year-old Nigerian suspect tried to detonate an explosive aboard a Northwest Airlines flight bound for Detroit.

Gonda didn't find out about the explosive hidden in his bag until Monday night, when Slovak police called him and told him where to find it. Slovakia's deputy prime minister, Robert Kalinak, also telephoned to apologize.

That didn't stop Gonda from being arrested the next morning.

Ireland's national police force, the Garda Siochana, said it received only a vague tip from their Slovak counterparts saying Gonda was suspected of possessing explosives.

Yemen official tells AP US troops not wanted

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—As Yemen becomes the new front in the war on terror, its leaders want this to be clear: It does not intend to become another Iraq or Afghanistan with thousands of U.S. troops on the ground.

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi drew some red lines Wednesday in its burgeoning alliance with Washington against al-Qaida, telling The Associated Press that Yemen welcomes U.S. and foreign troops for training, intelligence and logistical support.

"But not in any other capacity," he said, adding, "there is a lot of sensitivity" among Yemenis about foreign combat troops. He underlined that Yemeni forces would remain under Yemeni command, without any joint authority with the Americans.

His comments came as Yemeni security forces carried out a hunt for Mohammed Ahmed al-Hanaq, the suspected leader of an al-Qaida cell believed to be plotting attacks on the U.S. Embassy or other consulates in Yemen. While troops searched in the mountainous region of Arhab northeast of San'a where he was hiding, officials were negotiating with local tribal sheiks, demanding al-Hanaq's surrender.

Washington and San'a are still feeling out how far they can go in their newly intensified partnership against al-Qaida, whose fighters have dug roots into the mountains of this impoverished Arab nation and now, the Obama administration says, present a global threat.

Gunmen kill 7 at Egypt church after Christmas Mass

CAIRO (AP)—Three men in a car sprayed automatic gunfire into a crowd of churchgoers in southern Egypt as they left a midnight Mass for Coptic Christmas, killing at least seven people in a drive-by shooting, the church bishop and security officials said.

Egypt's Interior Ministry said the attack Wednesday just before midnight was suspected as retaliation for the November rape of a Muslim girl by a Christian man in the same town. The statement said witnesses have identified the lead attacker.

The attack took place in the town of Nag Hamadi in Qena province, about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from the famous ancient ruins of Luxor. A local security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, confirmed that seven were dead and three seriously wounded.

Bishop Kirollos of the Nag Hamadi Diocese told The Associated Press six male churchgoers and one security guard were killed. He said he had left St. John's church just minutes before the attack.

"A driving car swerved near me, so I took the back door. By the time I shook hands with someone at the gate, I heard the mayhem, lots of machine gun shots," he said in a telephone interview. He said he saw five bodies lying on the ground when he first looked at the site of the shooting, about 600 yards from where he was.

WORLD BRIEFS

Honduras prosecutor seeks charges against military

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The chief prosecutor asked the Supreme Court on Wednesday to issue arrest warrants charging Honduras' military commanders with abuse of power for sending President Manuel Zelaya out of the country in his June 28 ouster. The court will have three days to decide whether to grant the request from prosecutor Luis Alberto Rubi. It would be the first legal action taken against the armed forces since soldiers rousted Zelaya out of his home at gunpoint and forced him aboard a flight to Costa Rica. The measure could be largely cosmetic. The high court has repeatedly ruled or advised against reinstating Zelaya as president. It has also said he faces charges of treason and abuse of power, in large part for disobeying court orders to drop a plan to hold a referendum on changing the constitution.

Hamas, Egypt clash across sealed border; 1 dead

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Hamas loyalists and Egyptian troops opened fire along Gaza's volatile border Wednesday, leaving an Egyptian soldier dead and more than a dozen Gazans hurt in the bloodiest clash between the two sides in a year. Accompanied by a barrage of rocks, the shooting underlined the mounting tensions over Egypt's construction of an underground steel wall that could seal Gaza's southern border, block hundreds of smuggling tunnels and deprive Gaza's Hamas rulers of their only lifeline. Hamas is trying to rally Arab and Muslim public opinion against the barrier it has dubbed the "death wall." Hamas-allied Muslim clerics have denounced the wall as "haram," or forbidden by Islam, and protesters picketed Egyptian embassies in Lebanon and Jordan this week.

Iran ex-prosecutor blamed for prison deaths

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—A parliamentary probe has found a former Tehran prosecutor responsible for the death by torture of at least three anti-government protesters detained in the turmoil following the disputed June elections, a conservative Iranian Web site reported Wednesday. Saeed Mortazavi was the Tehran city prosecutor who was responsible for monitoring Kahrizak prison. After months of denials, Iran's judiciary acknowledged last month that three detainees there were beaten to death by their jailers.

The Alef Web site, which reported the probe results, is close to conservative lawmaker Ahmad Tavakoli. It said Mortazavi personally ordered that detained protesters be taken to Kahrizak—a facility on Tehran's outskirts where much of the prisoner abuse took place.

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NMHC

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This is to inform all Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)-approved Contractors that we are currently updating our Approved Contractor Listing. In order for NMHC to extend your company's inclusion on its listing for another year, you must submit the documentations listed below. Those companies who wish to be included are likewise encouraged to submit the following:

1. Valid CNMI Business License
2. Certified Current Financial Statement
3. 2 Years Business Gross Revenue (BGR) Tax Forms
4. Clearance Letter from the Department of Labor
5. Certificate of Compliance from the Revenue & Taxation Office
6. Workmen's Compensation Policy
7. Name of Insurance Company(ies) Currently Dealing With
8. A list of on-going/completed projects showing name of project, start and completion dates, and contract amounts including three (3) reference letters from owners of the projects
9. List of vendors and suppliers and at least three reference letters from them
10. The company's total years in the construction business
11. Articles of Incorporation & Company By-Laws, if applicable

FAILURE TO SUBMIT THE ABOVE DOCUMENTS BY JANUARY 11, 2010 WILL RESULT IN YOUR COMPANY'S ELIMINATION FROM OUR LIST OF "APPROVED CONTRACTORS".

NMHC encourages Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE) to participate in this Request for Qualifications and that they will be afforded full opportunity to participate and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, or disability status.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

/s/ **JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO**
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal housing provider, lender and employer.

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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http://www.votecnmi.gov.mp/

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (a) and (b), the Commonwealth Election Commission, hereby give notice that the Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at The Rota Hotel on Rota. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Election Commission, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
a. Roll call
b. Adoption of Agenda

II. Executive Director's Report

III. New Business
a. Election of Officers
b. Initial Review of Election Statute

IV. Miscellaneous

V. Adjournment

/s/ FRANCES M. SABLAN
Chairwoman

(The Commission, pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, may vote to meet in executive session to consult legal counsel and discuss personnel matters.)

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Filthy lucre: Cash-filled shoes tossed in Romania

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Romanian newspapers are reporting that a Romanian family who hid euro40,000 ($57,768) in a pair of old shoes, then threw them away by mistake, has recovered the bulk of its savings. Newspapers Evenimentul Zilei and Gandul reported Wednesday that a man from the city of Alba Iulia hid the savings in the shoes without telling his wife. The papers say the wife cleaned house before Christmas and threw the shoes away. The papers reported that the couple informed police, who discovered that a woman had found the shoes—and bought a euro22,000 cottage. The family recovered euro11,000 from the woman and euro19,000 from the people who sold the house. The woman who found the shoes will be investigated.

Father's alleged assault plan foiled by own kids

EVANS, Colo. (AP)—A Colorado man accused in a weekend break-in was nabbed when police say he ran into some unexpected guests - his own kids. Police say 33-year-old Raul Gaucin-Valenzuela accompanied a friend Saturday to break into the home of a friend's ex-wife and beat up her new boyfriend. But the plan was foiled when the men ran into Gaucin-Valenzuela's children, ages 8 and 11. Police say he didn't realize the woman who lived there was baby-sitting his children. The kids recognized their dad, even though his face was covered by a bandanna. No one was hurt in the break-in. Gaucin-Valenzuela was jailed on suspicion of second-degree burglary and other charges. The friend hasn't been located.

Woman, 82, accused of having gun in fed building

AUGUSTA, Maine (AP)—An 82-year-old Maine woman faces charges after she tried to carry a concealed handgun into a federal building in Augusta. Imelda Yorkus, of Whitefield, said she forgot she had the gun when she tried to go to the post office in the Edmund S. Muskie Federal building on Tuesday afternoon. Security officers in the building discovered the weapon when it set off a metal detector. Police Sgt. Christopher Massey said Yorkus made no attempt to hide the gun and there's no evidence she had any malicious intentions. Nevertheless, Yorkus faces charges of carrying a concealed weapon without a permit. Yorkus told the Kennebec Journal she made a "stupid mistake."

1-ton fake pig delivers Michigan birthday greeting

FRANKENMUTH TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan man is enjoying a pink, one-ton surprise delivered for his 60th birthday. The Saginaw News reported Dennis Krafft pulled into his driveway in Saginaw County's Frankenmuth Township on Tuesday and was greeted a giant pink pig. The fake animal was dressed in superhero garb with a black mask and red cape. A truck with a crane deposited pig at the home about 75 miles northwest of Detroit. Krafft said it's got a "beautifully spiraled tail." Friend Alan R. Weiss temporarily got custody of the fake pig when he bid about $600 on a "Mystery Box" at a fundraiser for the Frankenmuth Historical Association. The 59-year-old didn't know the pig was part of the package. The pig was a prop in the Drew Barrymore movie "Whip It," which had scenes shot in Michigan.

Man leaves electronics, steals diapers from home

DELAND, Fla. (AP)—Authorities are looking for the thief of thieves who stole diapers, heaters and teddy bears from a Volusia County home. Renee Glenn said the culprit who broke into her family's mobile home on New Year's Eve opted to take the toys, diapers and two space heaters instead of the electronics that were also in the residence. Glenn, whose daughter was born deaf and with a cleft palate, said her family is "poor as dirt," but would have given the diapers away if the burglar or burglars had just asked.

'Escape artist' steer rescued from swimming pool

HAMILTON, Ohio (AP)—A roving half-ton steer has plunged into an icy Ohio swimming pool, requiring a rescue operation that involved a police officer, fire crew and neighbors. They had the 6-year-old Limousin steer named Walter out of the backyard pool in about 15 minutes Tuesday afternoon in rural Ross Township, north of Cincinnati. They put a rope around the animal's neck to keep its head above water and lured it from the nine-foot deep end of the pool into the shallow part and then up the pool's steps. Becky Freson, whose family owns Walter, said the steer is something of an "escape artist." The animal previously wandered across the street to the grounds of a high school. The Fresons said the steer did not appear injured after emerging from the family's pool.

Man allegedly threatens neighbors with slingshot

ORANGE CITY, Fla. (AP)—A Volusia County man has been charged with threatening his neighbors with a slingshot. Orange City police said a 65-year-old man got into an argument with another man in the laundry room of their apartment complex on Sunday. The resident told police that the suspect left the room, saying "You made a big mistake with me." The suspect reportedly came back later and pointed a slingshot at the other man and his mother. The resident called police, who questioned him and arrested him. An officer reported finding a slingshot and four rocks in the man's pocket. The suspect told the officer that the weapon didn't belong to him. The man was charged with aggravated assault and resisting arrest without violence. He was released Monday on $3,000 bail.

Police seek woman who trashed Mo. McDonald's

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Police in Kansas City, Mo., are looking for a woman who went on a rampage at a McDonald's because she didn't like her hamburger. Police said the woman caused thousands of dollars in damage on Dec. 27 when she became upset that the restaurant wouldn't refund her money. Employees had offered to replace her hamburger, but the woman refused and demanded her money back. Police released a video showing the woman throwing a sign and a bucket of water over the counter and pushing off a glass display case and three cash registers. She then cursed and fled.

Nudists steamed over sea lion carcass on beach

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. (AP)—Some Orange County nudists are fuming over the burial of a rotting sea lion carcass on a San Onofre beach. The naturists said Tuesday that state parks officials buried the animal on the beach near Trail 6, which used to be clothing-optional until officials cracked down in 2008. Allen Baylis said the dead animal's fin sticks out of the sand just a few yards from a volleyball court near where people still sunbathe naked. He said the stench is so overpowering it will keep people away. The park's maintenance chief, Steve Scott, said his crews had to move the 10-foot sea lion from where it was found because of crowds and erosion on that beach. Scott said it was not their intention to offend or inconvenience the nudists.

Elvis remembered

Seventy-five years ago, on Jan. 8, 1935, Elvis Presley, the king of rock 'n' roll was born. Some of the King's trivial quirks:

Royal pelvis

Who came up with "Elvis the Pelvis"? A June 1956 issue of Time magazine referred to Elvis Presley as "the Pelvis"; it was inspired by his suggestive leg and pelvic movements while performing on stage

Elvis' moves:

1. Start with sneer on face, kind of like a snarl; flare the nostrils
2. Twitch the head
3. Spread legs wide
4. Point knees inward
5. Start tapping right foot
6. Twist legs and snap a knee
7. Rise to balls of feet, raise an arm
8. Wiggle, grind, bump hips
9. Jerk and quiver body
10. Swing guitar wildly

Hound dog diet

Elvis loved junk food and weighed 258 pounds when he died

Some of his favorites:

- Cheeseburgers
- Banana splits
- Jelly doughnuts
- Fried chicken
- Burned bacon
- Peanut butter and banana sandwiches

Elvis' Peanut Butter & Banana Sandwich

Blend 1/4 cup peanut butter with two ripe bananas until creamy; spread mixture on five slices of buttered bread; top with remaining slices; place sandwiches in pan and grill in butter until lightly toasted; flip; grill other side; drain on paper towels; makes five sandwiches

"They used to see me comin' down the street and they'd say, 'Hot dang, let's get him, he's a squirrel, he's a squirrel, get him, he just come down outta the trees'"

Elvis and his 'do

Some say Elvis copied actor Tony Curtis' hairstyle; Elvis sported a pompadour in high school; he brushed his hair up and back, slathering it with pomade-like ointment; a ducktail in back and a spit curl over the forehead completed the look

He dyed his hair jet black to match his black leather outfits; his natural color is dishwater blond

© 2009 MCT

Source: "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Elvis," by Frank Coffey; "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Elvis," by Mick Farren; "Fit for a King, The Elvis Presley CookBook," by Elizabeth McKeon, Ralph Gevirtz, and Julie Bandy; Rockin' with Elvis Web site, MCT Photo Service

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Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME OF: JANELLE VALERIANO REYES, Minor Child, Adoptee;, By: TERESITA VALERIANO REYES and NICOLAS AGULTO REYES, Petitioners.	FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0125 ORDER

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING based on the ex parte motion of Petitioners, this matter is set for hearing on February 11, 2010, at 1:30 pm at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2010.

/s/ **PERRY B. INOS**
Associate Judge

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
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First Floor, San Jose Court Building
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Petitioner
CONRADO MANZANO TORIO and ROSITA DELOS SANTOS TORIO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of **MARLAI MJ SABLAN RIALES (d.o.b. 08/14/2003), Minor Child,** By **CONRADO MANZANO TORIO and ROSITA DELOS SANTOS TORIO,** Petitioners.	FCD – AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0624 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Conrado Manzano Torio and Rosita Delos Santos Torio filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor child Marlai MJ Sablan Riales (d.o.b. 08/14/2003) in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on January 21, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 28th day of October 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Building
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Attorney for Petitioner
EVA VILLAFUERTE WILKINS

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of **GABRIEL LAGRASON ALZAGA (d.o.b. 03/08/2005), Minor Child,** By **EVA VILLAFUERTE WILKINS,** Petitioner.	FCD – AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0625 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that Eva Villafuerte Wilkins filed a verified Petition for the adoption of minor child Gabriel Lagrason Alzaga (d.o.b. 03/08/2005) in the Commonwealth Superior Court. The original petition is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Law Office of Danilo T. Aguilar, P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A hearing on the above-entitled matter will be held on January 21, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Superior Court, Susupe Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 28th day of October 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Science & Technology

TECHNOLOGY BRIEFS

Samsung to launch e-book readers

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Samsung, the leading maker of phones and TVs for the U.S. market, is launching e-book readers early this year, joining a host of manufacturers who hope to capitalize on the shift away from paper books. Samsung Electronics Inc. will be launching two models with 6-inch and 10-inch "electronic ink" screens, similar to the sizes of Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle models. They'll be able to download public-domain books from Google Inc. via Wi-Fi, and they'll come with styluses so users can write on the screen. The models will cost $399 and $699 respectively.

Microsoft to unveil HP tablet PC at gadget show

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer will demonstrate a new touch-screen, tablet-style computer from Hewlett-Packard Co. on Wednesday night, the first of several such devices expected to be unveiled this month. The tablet is also known as a slate, a one-piece portable computer without a physical keyboard. Tablet-style computers that run Windows have been available for a decade, but HP's new machine is bound to draw extra attention thanks to expectations that Apple Inc. will launch a similar device later this month. *(AP)*

Zomm hopes wireless tether can prevent lost phones

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Losing your cell phone can be exasperating and expensive. But what if your phone could call out to you, letting you know it was about to be left behind? Zomm, a newly minted consumer electronics company from Tulsa, Okla., believes this would cut down on disappearing handsets. At the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this week, the company showed off a small device that does just that. The company's device, also called Zomm, connects wirelessly with your phone via Bluetooth and sets off an alarm if you walk away from it. The Zomm, which is about the size of an Oreo cookie, also includes a personal alarm that users can activate and a button that will call emergency services with your phone. The product includes a rechargeable battery that can last for three days per charge and is expected to be available this summer for $80.

A ZOMM that uses Bluetooth technology, is shown at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010.
AP

Science Matters

MACHOs or WIMPs?

One of the deepest mysteries of modern physics is the nature of the "missing matter" in the universe. Two theories are being studied.

What is 'dark matter'?

No one knows, but the stars and galaxies we see through telescopes make up less than 10% of the mass of the unverse.

Best evidence Galaxies rotate in a way that is only possible if they are much more massive than they appear

Two possible answers ...

WIMPs

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

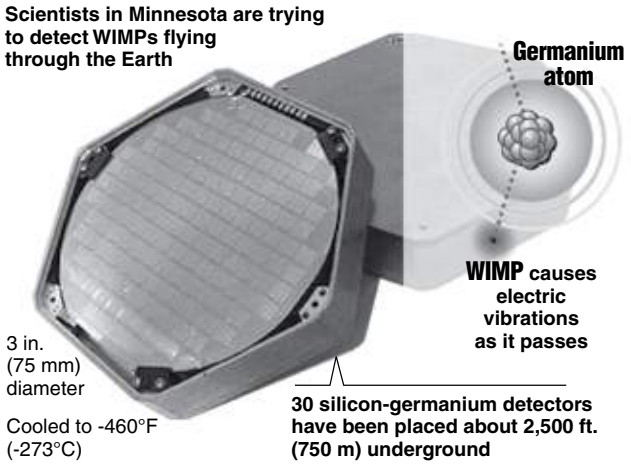
Tiny, ancient particles zipping throughout space

MACHOs

Massive Astrophysical Compact Halo Objects

Invisible, dead stars drifting in space

Scientists in Minnesota are trying to detect WIMPs flying through the Earth


Germanium atom
WIMP causes electric vibrations as it passes
3 in. (75 mm) diameter
Cooled to -460°F (-273°C)
30 silicon-germanium detectors have been placed about 2,500 ft. (750 m) underground

Source: Caltech Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Minnesota Cryogenic Dark Matter Search Graphic: Minneapolis Star Tribune and Helen Lee McComas **© 2009 MCT**

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Q: How do I ensure my data's gone from my old computer before I dispose of it?

A: Dumping a file in the Recycle Bin or the Trash erases the computer's record of it, not the actual file. Scrubbing the file requires extra tools.

In Windows, the free, open-source Eraser (eraser.heidi.ie) can do the job, but first you need to expose normally hidden folders holding some critical data.

In Windows XP, choose "Folder Options" from the My Computer window's Tools menu (in Vista, pick "Folder and Search Options" from that window's Organize menu), click the Folder Options window's View tab and then the "Show hidden files and folders" button.

Then open the "Application Data" folder—in Vista, "AppData"—and right-click to erase it.

Eraser may balk at that, unfortunately; in that case, you'll have to drill down to individual folders and wipe them one by one. Start with any named after heavily used programs or their developers (for instance, "Mozilla" or "Microsoft," though the latter's Outlook Express stores data in a vaguely named "Identities" folder). Then you can wipe anything valuable in such standard, visible folders as My Documents.

On a Mac, things are simpler. In OS X 10.3 or newer, drag the contents of your home folder to the Trash, hit the Finder menu and select "Secure Empty Trash ..."

In OS X 10.1 or 10.2, download the 2.1.2 or 2.3.5 releases of the free Permanent Eraser from the "Downloads" section of edenwaith.com.

If you'll sell or donate the machine, reload its original software and delete any leftover files and settings. On most PCs, you'd do that by starting the computer off its system-recovery partition, then choosing an option to erase the disk; check its manual for instructions. On a Mac, you'd boot from the system CD or DVD and select an "Erase and Install" option.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh and Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board and Inaugural Meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR AND INAUGURAL MEETING AGENDA
Monday, January 11, 2010
8:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room
2nd Floor, NMIRF Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan

POSTING OF COLORS
Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion

CNMI AND NATIONAL ANTHEM
Miki Dela Cruz, Student, Kagman High School
Joe Limes, Retired PSS Teacher and Administrator

INVOCATION
Scott Lee Norman
Non-Public School Representative,
11th State Board of Education
Principal, Calvary Christian Academy

ELEVENTH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

PRELIMINARY MATTERS
Call to Order-Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, BOE Chair
Roll Call-Valerie K. Malwelbug, BOE Administrative Officer
Adoption of Agenda

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE
Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Commissioner of Education

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, BOE Member
Herman T. Guerrero, BOE Member
Scott Lee Norman, Non-Public School Representative

BRIEF REMARKS
Scott Lee Norman

Special Remarks
Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita
Chairperson, 11th CNMI State Board of Education

OATH OF OFFICE
Honorable Alexandro C. Castro
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the CNMI

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita
Herman T. Guerrero

TWELFTH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Call to Order – Kelley M. Butcher (PSS Legal Counsel), Chair *Pro tem*
Roll Call – Valerie K. Malwelbug, BOE Administrative Officer

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ADJOURNMENT

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

Atty Robert Myers (F0365)
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Counsel for Administrator
Estate of Juan Ch. Reyes
PEDRO P. REYES

Counsel for Executrix
Estate of Joaquina P. Reyes
DIANA R. DOMINGO

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: JUAN CHARFAUROS REYES, Decedent.	Case Nos. 04-0128-CV, 04-130-CV

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON AMENDED PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Date: February 9, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Ramona V. Manglona

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Administrator has filed an Amended Petition for final distribution in this Estate, which shall be heard on February 9, 2010 at 9:00 am in Courtroom 220A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, MP. All interested persons should come and attend the hearing.

Dated: December 31, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

Josie Marilyn Manalo
P.O. Box 502045
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 285-9778

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Matter Of The Petition To Appoint General Guardianship For: S. M. H., Minor Child, By: MARILYN DEJUMO MANALO, Petitioner.	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0002 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 20, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
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Phone: (670) 234-6806 / 7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LI CHUN CHEN, Petioner, Versus XI HE BI, Respondent.	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0695 SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

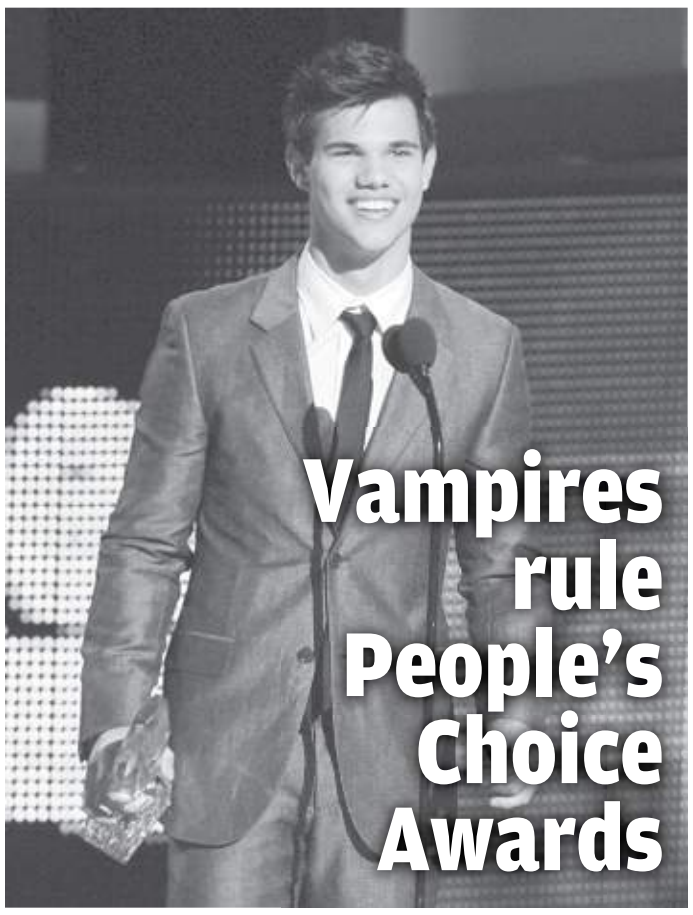
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 10th day of December, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

Life & Style



AP

Taylor Lautner accepts the award for favorite breakout movie actor at the People's Choice Awards on Wednesday Jan. 6, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Vampires rule People's Choice Awards

BY DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The people have chosen vampires.

"The Twilight Saga," ''True Blood" and "The Vampire Diaries" all sucked up trophies Wednesday at the 36th annual People's Choice Awards.

"Twilight" won four trophies, including favorite movie, franchise and on-screen team for the dreamy trio of Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner, who also picked up the breakout male actor award.

The undead HBO fable "True Blood" and the soapy supernatural CW series "The Vampire Diaries" were respectively selected as favorite TV obsession and favorite new TV drama. Other winners in categories spanning movies, TV and music included "Inglourious Basterds" as favorite independent movie and Lady Gaga as favorite pop and breakout music artist.

Queen Latifah, who returned as host of the fan-favorite ceremony for the fourth consecutive year, kicked off the show at the Nokia Theatre with a jazzy name-dropping number.

Stars such as Hugh Jackman, Mariah Carey, Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban, Ashton Kutcher, Taylor Swift and Ellen DeGeneres were on hand to accept their awards selected by Internet votes.

"One for each of Sandra Bullock's toes," joked 11-time People's Choice Awards champion DeGeneres.

Other TV winners included "American Idol" as favorite competition show, "Glee" as favorite new TV comedy, Steve Carell as favorite TV comedy actor, Alyson Hannigan as favorite TV comedy actress, "The Big Bang Theory" as favorite TV comedy, "House" as favorite TV drama, Hugh Laurie as favorite TV drama actor and "Supernatural" as favorite fantasy TV show.

Winners in the movie categories included Bullock as favorite movie actress, Jackman as favorite action star, "The Proposal" as favorite comedy movie and "Up" for favorite family movie. Sacha Baron Cohen, appearing as himself and not as his alter-egos Borat or Bruno, presented Johnny Depp with a special award as favorite movie actor of the decade.

"The only reason that any of us are up here is because of you," Depp told the audience.

WINNERS LIST

Winners at the 36th annual People's Choice Awards:

- Favorite Movie: "**Twilight**."
- Favorite On-Screen Team: "**The Twilight Saga**."
- Favorite Franchise: "**The Twilight Saga**."
- Favorite Breakout Movie Actor: **Taylor Lautner**.
- Favorite Movie Actress: **Sandra Bullock**.
- Favorite Comedy Movie: "**The Proposal**."
- Favorite Independent Movie: "**Inglourious Basterds**."
- Favorite Action Star: **Hugh Jackman**.
- Favorite Comedic Star: **Jim Carrey**.
- Favorite Breakout Movie Actress: **Miley Cyrus**.
- Favorite Movie Actor: **Johnny Depp**.
- Favorite Family Movie: "**Up**."
- Favorite TV Drama Actor: **Hugh Laurie**.
- Favorite TV Drama: "**House**."
- Favorite TV Comedy: "**The Big Bang Theory**."
- Favorite TV Drama Actress: **Katherine Heigl**.
- Favorite TV Comedy Actor: **Steve Carell**.
- Favorite TV Comedy Actress: **Alyson Hannigan**.
- Favorite TV Obsession: "**True Blood**."
- Favorite Talk Show: "**The Ellen DeGeneres Show**."
- Favorite Sci-Fi/Fantasy TV Show: "**Supernatural**."
- Favorite Competition Show: "**American Idol**."
- Favorite Animal Show: "**Dog Whisperer**."
- Favorite New TV Drama: "**The Vampire Diaries**."
- Favorite New TV Comedy: "**Glee**."
- Favorite Female Artist: **Taylor Swift**.
- Favorite Country Artist: **Carrie Underwood**.
- Favorite Male Artist: **Keith Urban**.
- Favorite Breakout Music Artist: **Lady Gaga**.
- Favorite Hip-Hop Artist: **Eminem**.
- Favorite Rock Band: **Paramore**.
- Favorite Music Collaboration: "**Run This Town**," **Jay-Z** featuring **Rihanna** and **Kanye West**.
- Favorite R&B Artist: **Mariah Carey**.
- Favorite Pop Artist: **Lady Gaga**.
- Favorite Web Celeb: **Ashton Kutcher.**

'Frozen Gore' sculpture fuels debate in Alaska

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—Another two-ton ice sculpture of former Vice President Al Gore is back in front of a Fairbanks liquor store.

"Frozen Gore" is a dig at Gore's beliefs about climate change.

The first statue went on display last year. This year's version is hooked up to the exhaust of a pickup truck to make it appear Gore is spouting hot air.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reports the smoke drew laughs from a crowd Tuesday as a Gore speech on climate change played over a loudspeaker.

The sculpture was commissioned by two businessmen, Craig Compeau and Rudy Gavora, who want Gore to discuss global warming in Fairbanks.

"We don't agree with his theories—we're suspicious of the financial motivation behind them," Compeau said.

Last year's inaugural Gore ice sculpture got national attention, including mentions on The Drudge Report, CNN, Fox News and MSNBC.

Compeau said his Web site with photos and information about the sculpture attracted 1.7 million visitors. He also was swamped with mostly positive e-mails from people who found the sculpture entertaining.

Climate change scientists say Alaska has warmed by 3 degrees Fahrenheit during the past 50 years. The average temperature for 2009 was 27.8 degrees in Fairbanks, about one degree warmer than normal, said Rick Thoman, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

In Loving Memory of

Retired Tinian Police Captain Antonio Manglona Borja (TON Bernadine)

Born on May 25, 1963, was called by our Lord Jesus Christ to his eternal rest on Thursday, December 31, 2009 at the age of 46

He now joins his:

Grandparents : Guillermo DLC. Borja & Maria Manibusan Cing
: Jose Taisacan Manglona & Bernadina Masga Manglona
Sister : Lydia Borja Palacios
Brother-In-Laws : Herman P. Palacios, George S. Benavente
Nieces : Jerica B. Aldan, Joaquina Rosanna B. Aldan
Nephew : Richard N. Borja, Jr.

He will be extremely missed and forever remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife : Bernadine Palacios Borja
Children : Anthony Silvestre Palacios Borja
Kristine Palacios Borja
Dennis Palacios Borja
Parents : Elias Manibusan Borja & Rosa Manglona Borja
Parents-In-Law : Silvestre Cepeda Palacios & Augusta Hofschneider Palacios

Brothers/Sisters-In-Laws & Family:
Francisco M. Borja/Bernadita DLG. San Nicolas
Lourdes B./Joaquin P. Aldan
George M. Borja/Concepcion P. Aldan
Jose M. Borja
Agnes M. Borja/Jose Topasna
Ricardo M. Borja/Sarah N. Borja
Ana B. Benavente/Martin Sablan
Elias M. Borja/Barbara C. Borja
Lucia B. Cruz/Vicente N. Cruz
Marcelino M. Borja/Evelyn E. Borja

Brothers/Sisters-In-Law & Family:
Ann Ruth P./Johnny M. Rivera
Vivian P./Francisco D. Cabrera
Geraldine P./Jose C. Mafnas
Peter H. Palacios, Sr./Bernadita C. Palacios
Carleen P./Senator Joseph M. Mendiola
Silvestre H. Palacios, Jr./Rosita C. Palacios

Numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews

God Children:
Jeannie P. Mafnas
Veronica B. Borja
Felipe M. Aquino
Tasi G. Long
Richard S. Hofschneider
Darius B. Aldan
Peter H. Palacios, Jr.
Kerry M. Borja
Juan D. Atalig
Colleen SN. Cing
Heinz P. Hofschneider
Charles Borja
Herbert C. Borja
Patrick A. Cabrera
Talisha A. Borja
Regene C. Palacios
Ashley B. Hofschneider
Jasmine N.P. Rivera
Maxine M. Barcinas

Family Friend: David Bamba

Nightly rosary is being said at 8:00 p.m. at his residence in San Jose, Tinian. His remains will be arriving from the Philippines on January 7th at 1:35 a.m. and will be transported to Tinian at 10 a.m. On Saturday, January 9th, his remains will be brought to San Jose Church at 8 a.m. for viewing. Mass of Christian burial will be at 1:30 p.m., followed by interment services at the Tinian cemetery.

'Avatar' races to $4.8M opening day in China

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/MCT

Jake Sully (Sam Worthington, left) and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana) in a scene from movie, "Avatar."

HONG KONG (AP)—Already a global hit, James Cameron's "Avatar" raced to a $4.8 million first day in populous China, with a publicist predicting the sci-fi blockbuster will set a new Chinese box office record.

"Avatar" raked in 33.03 million Chinese yuan ($4.8 million) on Monday, in a 3-D, 2-D and IMAX joint release, Weng Li, spokesman for state-run film importer China Film Group told The Associated Press in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Weng called the result a strong showing but wasn't sure if it was a first-day record. The modern benchmark for a hit in China is 100 million yuan ($14.6 million), and "Avatar" is on track to easily pass that mark in several days.

But the publicist said the story of aliens on a foreign planet fending off American colonizers is set for even greater box office heights, predicting it will break the all-time box office record recently set by another Hollywood production, "2012." That disaster film had made 460 million yuan ($67.3 million) as of Dec. 23.

Weng said "Avatar" could make 500 million yuan ($73.2 million).

"I think it has very good momentum. I think it should break the '2012' record," he said.

The strong results on Monday came despite heavy snowfall Sunday in the Chinese capital Beijing, a major movie market.

Cameron is already a box office darling in China, with his last movie "Titanic" pulling in a then-unprecedented 360 million yuan in 1998—a record that stood until last year, when it was broken by "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" and "2012." The Hollywood director also promoted "Avatar" in person in Beijing last month.

Elsewhere in China, in wealthy Hong Kong, a former British colony that maintains a separate political system, "Avatar" has earned 84.8 million Hong Kong dollars ($10.9 million) from Dec. 17 to Tuesday, Adrian Lo, a publicist for the Hong Kong distributor for Hollywood studio 20th Century Fox, said Wednesday.

The movie made more than $1 billion worldwide as of last weekend.

Like in other countries, the box office performance of "Avatar" in China was lifted by more expensive tickets for 3-D movies—although they are relatively cheaper in China, where wages still lag the developed world. Weng said a 2-D ticket costs about 30 to 40 yuan ($4.4 to $6); a 3-D ticket 60 to 80 yuan ($9 to $12) and an IMAX ticket 130 to 150 yuan ($19 to $22).

Chinese box office revenues are still small compared to the U.S., but they are growing rapidly, so Hollywood studios are keen that the Chinese government lifts its restrictions on revenue sharing for film imports. Currently, China Film Group only shares revenues on imports for about 20 films a year and pays flat fees for the other movies.

Government statistics show that revenues surged from 920 million yuan in 2003 to 4.3 billion yuan ($630 million) in 2008—compared to $9.8 billion in the U.S. in the same year. China had 4,100 movie screens as of the end of 2008.

Taking care of BUSINESS

On Jan. 8, 1935, Elvis Presley – the king of rock 'n' roll – was born. Despite dying over 30 years ago his business kingdom still thrives. The growth of Elvis Presley Enterprises:

ONE for the money ...

1977 Elvis' estate, valued at **$4.5 million to $5 million**, left to daughter Lisa Marie as a trust to be managed by Elvis' father, Vernon Presley, and a Memphis bank

1979 Vernon Presley dies, Priscilla begins comanaging **$3 million** estate, but maintenance of about $500,000 a year on 23-room Graceland mansion and other expenses are depleting it; Priscilla decides to turn mansion into a tourist attraction, starts Elvis Presley Enterprises (EPE)

1982 Graceland opens with a $5 admission

1983 Tennessee law passed, pushed by EPE, requiring businesses selling memorabilia to pay licensing fee, royalties based on expected sales

1993 Graceland bringing about **$10 million** annually when Lisa Marie marries Michael Jackson

1997 Estate estimated at more than **$250 million**; revenues about **$75 million**

2004 Elvis becomes the best-selling solo artist in U.S. history; July 5 marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of his career

2005 Lisa Marie partners with Robert F.X. Sillerman, giving him 85 percent interest in EPE; Elvis tops Forbes magazine's annual list of top earning dead celebrities at **$45 million**

2007 30th anniversary of Elvis' death; more than 600,000 visit Graceland annually

TWO for the show ...

- **Graceland's attractions** Elvis' mansion, private jets, automobiles and a mini-museum
- **Gift shops:** Good Rockin' Tonight, media; Elvis Threads, apparel; Gallery Elvis, art; various shops offer memorabilia, collectibles
- **Admission:** Mansion tour $25 adults, $22.50 seniors, $10 children ages 7 to 12, 6 and under free

THREE to get ready ...

- Estimates show Elvis record sales of more than one billion worldwide and growing
- Trophy room at Graceland contains awards from Sweden, Japan, Germany, the Netherlands and many other countries
- More than 625 active fan clubs worldwide; half of Graceland visitors are under age 35

FOUR to go!

- **Current visitors center, shops** to be replaced; high-tech museum added
- **Heartbreak Hotel,** currently 128 rooms, to be replaced with an up to 500-room convention hotel
- Estate working with local government to revitalize neighborhood

Source: Elvis Presley Enterprises, Forbes, RCA Records, MCT Photo Service

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DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ESTEBAN IGINOEF LIMES

Born on July 14, 1942 was called to eternal life on January 3, 2010 at the age of 67

He now joins his:

Parents:	†Jose R. Limes
	†Dolores Iginoef Limes
Sister:	†Camilla L. Pua/†Jose Pua
Brothers:	†Estanislao Limes/†Saulistia Elameto
	†Antonio I. Limes/†Elisabeth Tilipao
	†Andres I. Limes
	†Ismael I. Limes
Grand Daughter:	†Aliyah L. Hiram
Parents-in-law:	†Edward M. Peter
	†Cecilia K. Peter

He will be forever remembered in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Angelina Peter Limes
Children:	**William** L./ Resel Ann Billy and children
	Mary Jane/ Patrick Taitano and children
	David/ Mary Jane Garcia and children
	Thelma/ Joe Viloria and children
	Joyce Limes and children
	Stephen Jr. and children
	Lee Roy P. Limes
	Jacqueline P. Limes and children
Reared Children:	Maria Nakamura
Brothers & Sister in-law:	†Isidro P./ Rosa Limes
	Prepedigna P. / †Miguel Kileleman
	David K./ Malua T. Peter
	Rosa P. / †Rolando Afable
	Rufina P. / Greg Miles
	Edward Jr. / Melody Peter
	Emerenciana P. / George Palican

On January 8, 2010, his remains will be escorted from CHC Morgue to his residence at 4:00 p.m. followed by responso services at 8:00 p.m. On January 9, 2010 his remains will be escorted from his residence to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church at 1:30 p.m. Mass celebration will be held at 2:00 p.m. followed by interment services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

From the Family

Free local TV soon to be available on cell phones

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The prospect of watching live, local TV shows on mobile phones and other portable devices is getting closer. Manufacturers this week are showing off gadgets can receive a new type of digital TV transmissions.

"Mobile DTV" gadgets will be available this spring for consumers in the Washington, D.C., area to try. The devices include a cell phone made by Samsung Electronics Co. and a Dell Inc. laptop. There's also the Tivit, a device about the size of a deck of cards that receives a TV signal, then rebroadcasts it over Wi-Fi so it can be received by an iPhone or BlackBerry.

The devices are being displayed this week at the International Consumer Electronics show in Las Vegas.

Conventional digital TV broadcasts are designed for stationary antennas. So devices that are moving—because someone's carrying them or because they're in a car—have a hard time getting a picture. The Mobile DTV technology gets around that problem, letting broadcasters add a secondary signal to the towers they use for sending TV signals to homes. About 30 stations have done so in the last year, hoping to reach viewers on the go as gadgets like smart phones gain in prominence.

So far, only prototype devices have been able to receive these new signals. Cell phones, particularly ones with large screens, would be natural devices for Mobile DTV reception, but U.S. carriers have shown little interest in the technology. The two largest ones, AT&T Inc. and Verizon Wireless, sell phones that are compatible with a rival broadcasting system, FLO TV, run by Qualcomm Inc. It provides 10 channels for $15 per month.

Mariah gets carried away at Palm Springs gala

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (AP)—Mariah Carey lived up to her sometimes loopy reputation at the Palm Springs International Film Festival awards as she gave a long, rambling acceptance speech after being named Breakthrough Actress for her performance in "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire."

Carey, teetering in a skin-tight, black-beaded full-length Herve Leger gown, was escorted onto the stage Tuesday night, and at the podium, greeted her presenter and "Precious" director Lee Daniels with a little dance and a big hug.

Carey hesitated for a few seconds, looked to the ceiling, sighed and said, "Please forgive me, because I'm a little bit, um ..." An audience member finished the sentence for her with an obscenity, to which Carey replied, "Yeah!" adding a long, hearty laugh.

"Ooooooh, my goodness!" she bellowed.

For the next few minutes, Carey rambled on about first reading "Push," about meeting author Sapphire, and about meeting one of the night's other honorees, Academy Award-winner Helen Mirren, whom Daniels said turned down the "Precious" role.

In the midst of praising Daniels' work, Carey spontaneously burst into applause.

"Sorry," she told Daniels. "Sometimes I get a little ..." Carey then stopped cold to snap her fingers, then added "... you know, difficult." And then she giggled again.

Actress and singer Mariah Carey poses backstage after receiving an award for breakthrough actress performance at the Palm Springs Film Festival Awards Gala in Palm Springs, Calif. on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010.

AP

Carey went on to share a story about how Daniels told her to play the part, he needed her to listen to him. She was trying to elaborate, and couldn't come up with the words. She motioned to her face and said, "What do you call it?" When Daniels said he told her to remove her makeup, she said, "You could take my makeup off and I don't look like that (expletive) from the thing," referring to her "Precious" character. "Oh, God," Daniels moaned, turning away from Carey.

A full minute before Carey and Daniels finally left the stage, the audience had begun to applaud them off. "I thank you all for all listening to my little spiel," Carey said, wearily, "and God bless you."

Seconds later, host Mary Hart did her best to bring the ceremony back to Earth. "Who says we don't have fun here?" Hart asked, with a huge smile. The evening's other winners included "Up in the Air" director Jason Reitman, "Up in the Air" actress Anna Kendrick, "Hurt Locker" actor Jeremy Renner and "Inglourious Basterds" director Quentin Tarantino. Mirren was honored with a Career Achievement Award.

Carey didn't return to the stage Tuesday night, but her presence was felt for the remainder of the night. Before handing out a music award to songwriter-producer T Bone Burnett, actor Sean Penn quipped, "Think anything's going to make YouTube tonight?"

Hanes drops ads featuring Charlie Sheen

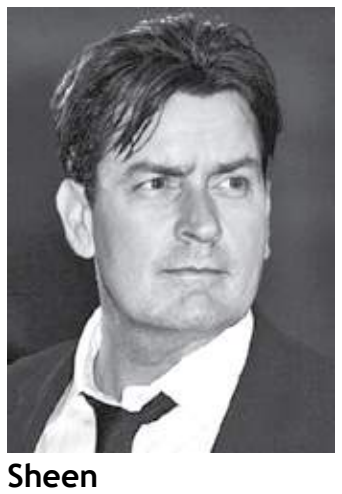
WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP)—Hanesbrands has ended its advertising campaign featuring Charlie Sheen because of domestic violence charges filed against the actor, a company spokesman said Wednesday.

Spokesman Matt Hall said the seriousness of the allegations against the 44-year-old actor made the decision necessary.

"It's a pretty standard, straightforward call when somebody who's in your commercials is arrested on suspicion of something of this magnitude," Hall said. "And we would suspend the ads both for the company and, really, for Mr. Sheen and his family as well. Given the publicity, it makes sense to not air those ads during that time."

Hall said the television ads were stopped effective Dec. 28, the first business day after Sheen was arrested. He said some print ads will continue to appear into the spring.

"Unfortunately, the production schedule of those publications do not allow us to pull those ads," Hall said.



Sheen

The "Two and a Half Men" star was arrested in Aspen, Colo., on Christmas Day on charges including felony menacing and domestic violence. His wife Brooke Sheen told police he put a knife to her throat and threatened to kill her. Sheen denies the allegations.

His publicist Stan Rosenfield says the actor has no comment on the Hanes decision. Hanes is based in Winston-Salem.

Hall says Sheen wouldn't have been retained when his contract expired in the middle of the year. He says Sheen has been a pitchman for almost two years. Hall also said there would be minimal impact from pulling the ads.

"We have other commercials. We have commercials for our socks, and so we'll probably push those commercials some more," he said. "We really don't view the first half of the year as a marketing-critical time for the advertiser, so we don't think there's any detriment to the brand by not having the opportunity to run these ads if we wanted to."

The ads feature Sheen and basketball legend Michael Jordan, a longtime spokesman for Hanes. In the series, Sheen is seen in several settings telling Jordan about the Hanes underwear he's wearing. Jordan drives away from Sheen in one of the ads; in another spot, Sheen backs his car over a bellstand and an outdoor heater after seeing Jordan in a parking lot.

music downloads

Week ending Jan. 5, 2010

#1 Album

The Fame Monster
Lady GaGa

Top tracks ( ) Last week's ranking in top five

United States

TiK ToK • Ke$ha	(1)	1
Bad Romance • Lady GaGa		2
Fireflies • Owl City	(2)	3
Replay • Iyaz	(3)	4
I Gotta Feeling • Black Eyed Peas		5

Lungs
Florence + the Machine

United Kingdom

Replay • Iyaz		1
Riverside • Sidney Samson		2
You've Got the Love • Florence + the Machine		3
Bad Romance • Lady GaGa	(2)	4
TiK ToK • Ke$ha	(4)	5

Paraiso Express
Alejandro Sanz

Spain

I Gotta Feeling • Black Eyed Peas	(1)	1
Ayo Technology • Milow	(2)	2
Single Ladies • Beyonce		3
Bad Romance • Lady GaGa	(5)	4
Rain • MIKA		5

Source: iTunes

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Daybreakers

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Ethan Hawke, William Dafoe
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
Fresh off the success of their inventive take on the zombie genre, Undead masterminds Michael and Peter Spierig direct Ethan Hawke in an ambitious tale of a futuristic Earth populated entirely by vampires, and the efforts made by the creatures to ensure that their food supply doesn't run out as humankind is faced with extinction. The year is 2017, and a vampire plague has turned most of the planet's human population into bloodsucking ghouls.

Youth in Revolt

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

M. Emmet Walsh, Fred Willard
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Superbad's Michael Cera discovers a vacation romance in Youth in Revolt, a teen comedy from Charlie Bartlett's screenwriter, Gustin Nash, and director Miguel Arteta (Chuck & Buck). The film is an adaptation of C.D. Payne's first book in a series of best-selling satirical novels starring Nick Twisp, a sexually charged 14-year-old whose intelligence and hormones get him into all sorts of adventures.

Sherlock Holmes

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous super-sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, gets an update with this adaptation of Lionel Wigram's comic book series by writer/director Guy Ritchie (RocknRolla) starring Robert Downey Jr. as the titular detective, with Jude Law stepping into the shoes of his sidekick, Dr. Watson. Heading up the rest of the cast are RocknRolla's Mark Strong as the film's villain, Blackwood, and Rachel McAdams portraying the love interest, Irene Adler.

It's Complicated

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin
Comedy • Rated R

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Mon thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Sqeakquel

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler
Children, Family • Rated PG

The Princess And The Frog

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Anika Noni Rose, John Goodman
Comedy, Family • Rated G

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Boys dread two more years of high school harassment

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a short, 5-foot-5-inch high school sophomore. I am small-boned and my voice is high-pitched. I'm terrible at sports, and physical education class is a nightmare. I have become friends with another guy, "Rick," who is much like me, and it helps to have someone who has similar problems.

Because Rick and I hang out together, some of the macho guys have started a rumor that we're gay, and now everyone in the school thinks it's true. Our PE teacher has even made comments to this effect, which compounds the problem.

Rick and I are shunned and have even been physically attacked because of this. We are not gay. We are just good friends who share common problems. We are interested in girls, but they aren't interested in us. When I try to say I'm not gay, they say, "Then who is your girlfriend?" When I tell them I don't have one, they laugh at me.

Rick and I are both "A" students. We keep telling ourselves that we will succeed where some of the macho guys who are obvious losers will not, and we'll have the last laugh. However, this is still a terrible situation for us, and we can't stand the thought of another two years like this. Please help.

SOPHOMORE IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR SOPHOMORE: If you and your friend haven't already told your parents what's going on, do so immediately. Then you and your parents should pay a visit to the school principal to report that you have been attacked by other students and misidentified as gay not only by your peers, but also by a member of the staff.

It appears that both staff and student body in your school need to be educated about the fact that discrimination, assault and hate crimes are illegal. And if the harassment is not stopped immediately, your families should take this matter to a lawyer.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 38-year-old married daughter's house is filthy. Her youngest is now in the hospital with pneumonia, and her two other kids are sick all the time. They are constantly coughing, have runny noses, fever and ear infections. I have tried talking to her regarding her housekeeping but she doesn't want to hear anything I have to say.

Her husband has convinced her that they have "more important things to be concerned with" than a clean house. He says they have love, and a clean house doesn't matter. The oldest girl is 11, and she tells me she's embarrassed to have anyone visit her. She has no friends (nor does my daughter) and I am afraid her life will go down along with my daughter's. Can you help me to help them?

GRANDMA IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR GRANDMA: My first suggestion is to hire someone to clean your daughter's house once a month, if that's doable. The second is to discuss your very real concerns with the doctor who is treating your grandchild for pneumonia. While your son-in-law may think that a house filled with love doesn't have to be clean, if it's so dirty it is hazardous to the health of the children who live there, he is seriously mistaken.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have an etiquette question my friends and I are wondering about. What is an appropriate response when you find out someone is expecting but she doesn't want to be? "Congratulations" doesn't seem right, but neither does, "You have my sympathy." I feel lost when this situation comes up. Do you have any ideas?

MELISSA IN KANSAS

DEAR MELISSA: How about, "I heard the news. If there is anything you need, please let me know."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Swift has year's top album; music sales up 2.1 pct

NEW YORK (AP)—Susan Boyle put up a strong challenge, but Taylor Swift ended 2009 with the year's best-selling album.

Nielsen SoundScan, which tracks the nation's album sales, says Swift's "Fearless" sold 3.2 million copies last year. It was released in late 2008. Boyle's "I Dreamed a Dream" sold 3.1 million copies—and it only came out in late November.

Michael Jackson's "Number Ones" was No. 3 with 2.3 million sold. "The Fame" by Lady Gaga was No. 4 with 2.2 million copies and Andrea Bocelli's "My Christmas" also sold about 2.2 million copies to come in at No. 5.

Jackson was the year's top-selling artist, selling 8.2 million records to Swift's 4.6 million.

Music sales overall were up 2.1 percent from 2008, but album sales continued their decline, down 12.7 percent.

In this Nov. 11, 2009 file photo, country singer Taylor Swift answers questions in the press room during the 43rd Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn. AP

Actor Nicolas Cage owes back taxes on RI mansion

MIDDLETOWN, R.I. (AP)—Actor Nicolas Cage owes roughly $128,000 in unpaid taxes on a mansion in Rhode Island.

Lynne Dible, finance director for the town of Middletown, says Cage is delinquent on property taxes from the last three quarters.

The Oscar-winning actor sued his former business manager in October for $20 million, claiming the man's advice led him toward financial ruin. Records show Cage owes millions of dollars in unpaid taxes to the IRS, and the actor says he's had to sell numerous assets because of his finances.

Cage's ex-business manager, Samuel J. Levin, has countersued, saying Cage's lavish spending is to blame.

Cage's attorney did not immediately return a call seeking comment. The Rhode Island home is on the market for $12 million.

'Precious' leads nominees for NAACP Image Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The heart-wrenching story of an illiterate and abused Harlem teen who finds hope in a classroom of misfits led the nominations announced Wednesday for the 41st annual NAACP Image Awards.

"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" added to its awards-season momentum with a leading eight nominations, earning nods for director Lee Daniels, star Gabourey Sidibe and supporting actors Mariah Carey, Mo'Nique, Paula Patton and Lenny Kravitz. "Precious" was also nominated for outstanding motion picture and outstanding independent film.

Other movies nominated Wednesday include "Invictus," "Michael Jackson's This Is It," "The Blind Side" and "The Princess and the Frog." "Blind Side" stars Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron, "Princess" star Anika Noni Rose, and "Invictus" star Morgan Freeman also were nominated for their performances.

Sophie Okonedo ("Skin") and Taraji P. Henson ("Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All By Myself") round out the best actress category, while Denzel Washington ("The Taking of Pelham 123"), Idris Elba ("Obsessed") and Jamie Foxx ("Law Abiding Citizen") are up for best actor.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

2 films pulled from festival over Dalai Lama doc

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The director of the Palm Springs International Film Festival says two Chinese movies selected for the event have been withdrawn in response to the scheduled screenings of a documentary about the Dalai Lama and Tibet. Darryl Macdonald says "City of Life and Death" and "Quick, Quick, Slow" were withdrawn from the 21st annual festival after organizers declined Chinese government representatives' request to cancel screenings of "The Sun Behind the Clouds." The documentary portrays a year in the life of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader whom Beijing accuses of seeking Tibetan independence from Chinese rule.

Polanski attorney requests sentencing in absentia

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roman Polanski sent a letter from house arrest in Switzerland asking a Los Angeles judge to sentence him in a sex case without making him return to the U.S., but a ruling was postponed Wednesday. The notarized letter signed by Polanski on Dec. 26 in Gstaad was filed by his lawyer. It said Polanski understood he had the right to be present at all legal proceedings, but "I request that judgment be pronounced against me in my absence." Deputy District Attorney David Walgren objected to Polanski's request and demanded he "show his face" in court before he was sentenced. "The people are adamant that a fugitive not dictate the court's processes," Walgren told Superior Court Judge Peter Espinoza. The "Chinatown" director fled the U.S. in 1978 on the eve of sentencing after pleading guilty to one count of having sex with a 13-year-old girl.

Aguilera, Hanks, Harris to appear at Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Christina Aguilera, Tom Hanks and Neil Patrick Harris will appear as presenters at the Golden Globe Awards. Ricky Gervais is set to host the Jan. 17 awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The awards are given by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and are seen as a predictor of how films will do at the Academy Awards in March. Previously announced presenters at the 67th annual ceremony include Jennifer Aniston, Sophia Loren, Julia Roberts, Halle Berry, Gerard Butler, Mickey Rourke and Mel Gibson. Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio will present a special honor to Martin Scorsese.

'Diff'rent Strokes' star Gary Coleman hospitalized

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Diff'rent Strokes" actor Gary Coleman is in a Los Angeles hospital after suffering what he believes was a slight seizure. Coleman's agent, Robert Malcolm, says the 41-year-old actor was taken by ambulance to a hospital shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday after he began feeling "fuzzy" and vomited while resting at a hotel. Malcolm says Coleman appeared to be fine minutes later, and a CAT scan at the hospital showed no problems. He says Coleman—who has had two failed kidney transplants—will receive dialysis and remain hospitalized overnight. Malcolm says Coleman was in town to meet with producers of his latest film about removing a brief scene of frontal nudity that Coleman says was unauthorized. The meeting was rescheduled for Thursday.

Idaho high court declines to rehear Hanks case

KETCHUM, Idaho (AP)—The Idaho Supreme Court has refused to reconsider its ruling in a lawsuit pitting an Idaho contractor against Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson. The Idaho Mountain Express reports the high court said last week its October ruling in favor of the acting and producing couple will stand. The long-running dispute began after Hanks and Wilson hired Storey Construction to build their high-end villa in Ketchum. Both sides went into arbitration to settle disputes over payment and construction defect claims. Three years later, the couple sought a second arbitration, saying they'd found latent construction defects. The company said those matters had been settled in the first arbitration. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled last year that a second arbitration was allowable under the contract.

Katy Perry and Russell Brand are engaged

LONDON (AP)—No more kissing girls for Katy Perry. Emmet Mannion, a representative for Russell Brand, says the 34-year-old British actor-comedian has proposed to Perry. No wedding date was announced in the statement, issued Wednesday, and no other details were available. Brand met Perry, 25, when he hosted last year's MTV Video Music Awards and she performed. Perry's hits include "I Kissed a Girl" and "Hot N Cold."

Reggae star Banton moved to Tampa before hearing

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Jamaican reggae star Buju Banton has been moved to Tampa in advance of a federal court appearance on drug charges. Banton's label, Gargamel Music Inc., also announced Wednesday that he has hired Miami defense attorney David Oscar Markus to fight charges that he was involved in a conspiracy to traffic more than five kilograms of cocaine. The Grammy-nominated Banton has been moved from a jail in Miami to Tampa, where he is due to appear in court Thursday. If convicted he could face up to life in prison. Markus said Banton is innocent and was set up by "some evil people trying to take advantage of his trusting and honest character."

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THIS IS THE PART OF WINTER I LIKE BEST... WHEN YOU COME INSIDE, FREEZING COLD AND SOAKED..
..AND YOU PUT ON FRESH DRY CLOTHES, AND RUN UP TO THE WARM KITCHEN, WHERE MOM'S GOT A STEAMING MUG OF HOT CHOCOLATE WAITING FOR YOU!
MOM?.. MOM??
HEY MOM!
"CALVIN, I'M NEXT DOOR. DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT, OR YOU'LL SPOIL YOUR APPETITE. MOM."
IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG, COLD, DARK WINTER.
© 1991 Universal Press Syndicate
1-8

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

THE LIVING ROOM IS OFF LIMITS TONIGHT, GUYS. LIZ AND I ARE WATCHING TV
BUT WE DON'T WANNA WATCH TV
WE WANNA WATCH YOU AND LIZ
WINK WINK
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
www.garfield.com
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
1-8

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

UH-OH! JUST GOT AN E-MAIL FROM FROM AUNT LYNDA! SHE WANTS A PIC OF ME WEARING THE SCARF SHE GAVE ME!
I GAVE IT TO THE BIRDS OUT BACK FOR THEIR NEST.
OH NO! DO YOU THINK WE CAN SALVAGE IT?
HURRY, PLEASE. I'VE HEARD DISTURBED ROBINS CAN BE SPITEFUL.
I JUST GOOGLED IT AND THERES NEVER BEEN A RECORDED ATTACK OF A ROBIN ON A LOON.
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
1-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I JUST RAN A CHECK ON YOUR PLATES.
SEEMS YOU HAVE TWO OUTSTANDING WARRANTS.
THANKS. I'M PRETTY PROUD OF THEM MYSELF.
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Glenn McCoy by Universal Uclick
1-8-10

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

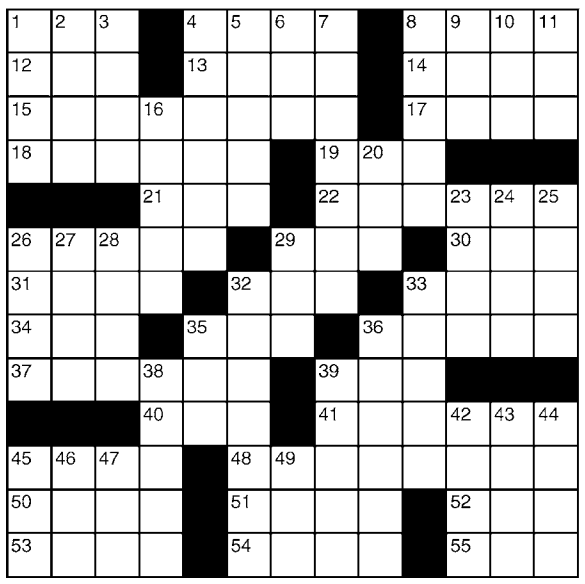
ACROSS
1 Plaything
4 Motion picture
8 Bachelor's lack
12 Praise in verse
13 Vicinity
14 Thoroughfare
15 Celebrate excessively
17 Pismires
18 Source
19 Fore opposite
21 Type measures
22 What Dorothy wanted to do
26 "M*A*S*H" venue
29 Plead
30 Purchase
31 Enrages
32 Deity
33 Location
34 Actor Beatty
35 Simonize
36 Chose
37 Rehash
39 Chowed down
40 Mrs. McKinley
41 Reaping implement
45 Bend
48 Deteriorate
50 Zero, at Wimbledon
51 Some of the flock
52 Cribbage scorer
53 The yoke's on them
54 Withered
55 Eisenhower

DOWN
1 Takeout request
2 Bloodhound's clue
3 Bigfoot's cousin
4 Last to marry Bluebeard
5 "Reversal of Fortune" star
6 "Ben-Hur" author Wallace
7 Ran
8 Rage
9 Charged bit
10 Corpulent
11 McMahon and Sullivan
16 Curved moldings
20 Visibility hindrance
23 Last writes?
24 Soundless
25 Kept tabs on
26 Chess piece
27 Sandwich treat
28 Start from scratch
29 Carton
32 Closed carports
33 Glasses, for short
35 Marry
36 Futile
38 Prancer's companion
39 Michaelmas daisy
42 French military cap
43 Welsh emblem
44 Advantage
45 Showman Ziegfeld
46 Cold fish?
47 Night before
49 Have bills

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	H	O	D		V	E	N	T		I	O	U
N	U	D	E		A	M	B	O		A	P	R
I	L	O	V	E	L	U	C	Y		M	U	G
P	A	R	O	L	E			E	R	A	S	E
			I	F		U	D	D	E	R		
A	V	I	D		D	N	A		D	O	P	E
B	O	B			A	F	T			C	O	L
C	L	E	M		D	I	E		S	K	I	M
		L	E	A	S	T		S	O			
E	V	I	L	S			K	I	C	K	U	P
Z	E	E		I	D	O	N	T	C	A	R	E
R	E	V		D	I	R	E		E	L	S	E
A	P	E		E	P	E	E		R	E	A	P

Yesterday's answer 1-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ami Dolenz, 41; R. Kelly, 43; David Bowie, 63; Robby Krieger, 64

Happy Birthday: Work quietly behind the scenes. Completing what you are working on without any interference will enable you to complete what you start and take any competitors or meddlers by surprise. It is your show this year and you must not forget that, even if someone tries to pull in the reins and take control of what you are doing. Your numbers are 1, 9, 18, 20, 23, 35, 39

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will have regrets if you give anyone control over your situation. Start the ball rolling and you will discover who is 100 percent behind you and who is not. Surround yourself with doers, not talkers and slackers. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discover new interests, explore professional options, travel for business or pleasure or get involved in a workshop. Love and romance are in the stars. Share your interests and time with someone special. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): There is money to be made but you have to be diligent about the way you spend. Don't limit your chance to get a big-ticket item you've been wanting because you make too many impulse purchases. A colleague or peer will show you how to invest wisely. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Plan something entertaining that can lead to a little romance or, at the very least, fun with your friends. The company of others will spark new ideas. A partnership will form with someone whose ideas mirror yours. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't get sidetracked. You will make a better impression if you put in long hours and finish what you started. Someone's change of plans will cause you to question whether or not you should be dealing with this person. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The opportunity to make some very successful changes in your life will occur if you get out and network with people who have similar interests. Do not let anyone slow you down. Discard anyone who appears to be holding you back. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't limit yourself because you are having trouble getting along. Look at your past goals and you will soon discover a lucrative alternative to your current financial situation. Don't fall short of your goals because you are emotionally burdened. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You really need a change. Consider making a move that will give you greater inspiration or potential. Use your creative talent to the fullest and enlist some of the people you know and trust to help you. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll have lots of energy to pursue your interests and take on challenges. Rethink your strategy about an emotional matter or you could suffer unforeseen consequences. Sudden changes at home will leave you in a very vulnerable position. ✪✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You are in the driver's seat. Take pride in what you have accomplished and let others see first hand what you are capable of doing. Don't let a burden tie you down. You will receive help if you ask. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't spend unnecessarily. An investment will turn out to be worth more than anticipated. Making a move will enable you to make new friends who can offer you stability and a much better future. The more you learn, the more you can move forward. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An investment you make will help you pull things together with the potential to draw interest and demand. With a little ingenuity and a gentle push, you can make some positive changes to your personal, financial and professional life. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are tenacious and relentless. You believe in your ability to accomplish whatever you set your mind to. You are intuitive and creative.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4		8			
		8				9		
	5		9		2		6	
6		3				5		8
				3				
9		5				7		1
	9		2		3		4	
		2				6		
			8		1			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	1	3	5	4	6	7	2
3	5	4	7	6	2	9	1	8
6	2	7	1	8	9	3	4	5
2	4	6	5	1	3	7	8	9
5	3	9	8	2	7	4	6	1
1	7	8	9	4	6	5	2	3
8	6	2	4	3	5	1	9	7
7	1	3	6	9	8	2	5	4
4	9	5	2	7	1	8	3	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HI-TECH CLOTHING **Solution: 7 letters**

U	D	Y	P	O	W	E	R	E	D	L	E	I	H	S
L	E	T	T	S	O	C	S	E	T	E	L	H	T	A
T	Z	L	(D)	L	L	T	T	R	B	P	H	O	N	E
R	I	A	(N)	L	O	A	O	R	E	I	N	L	T	S
A	R	I	(A)	O	E	U	C	R	A	O	F	A	N	E
V	E	C	(B)	R	S	S	F	I	I	I	E	C	E	N
I	T	E	T	E	E	O	T	T	M	H	N	I	B	G
O	U	P	R	R	R	N	C	N	H	E	A	R	R	I
L	P	S	A	M	Y	E	S	R	E	J	H	T	O	N
E	M	L	A	T	T	C	I	S	U	M	R	C	S	E
T	O	N	S	O	A	R	A	E	G	E	E	E	B	E
S	C	A	R	D	I	O	V	A	S	C	U	L	A	R
E	U	P	O	E	R	A	C	A	T	A	P	E	E	I
V	L	I	N	I	N	G	L	R	D	E	S	I	G	N
H	U	N	T	I	N	G	S	C	O	O	L	I	N	G

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Absorbent, Athletes, Band, Boots, Cardiovascular, Care, Chemicals, Coat, Computerized, Cooling, Cost, Design, Electrical, Elements, Engineering, Fiber, Gear, Hear, Heat, Hunting, Jersey, Laser, Lining, Music, Performance, Phone, Powered, Protection, Roll, Shield, Solar, Specialty, Suit, Tape, Train, Treated, Trousers, Ultraviolet, Vest

Yesterday's Answer: Fictional

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For $230.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728

FOR LEASE

Long-term Land Lease property.
San Vicente area.
Contact no. 483-8295.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

FIESTA RESORT & SPA SAIPAN is looking for:

- **Baker**
- **Information Technology Manager**

Must have at least four (4) years working experience.
To apply, please visit our Human Resources office or send your resume @ email address: lupe_flores@fiestasaipan.com.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan is an equal opportunity employer.

WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2010 **CLOSE DATE: January 12, 2010**

POSITION: Lifeguard/Prim (8/positions) **SALARY- $4.55/hour**

REQUIREMENTS:

- High School Diploma
- Police Clearance
- Color Photo - ID or Passport Size

JOB QUALIFICATION:

- Must be a high school graduate.
- Must posses a current lifeguard certificate. (i.e. ARC/YMC/Ellis & Associates/USLA/Hawaii State Lifeguard/ Canadian Lifeguard/Australian Lifeguard).
- Hospitality and customer service experience preferred.
- Multilingual skills a plus (i.e. Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Chinese).

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Reports to department supervisors.
- Safety
- Guest Interaction
- Activities & Promotion
- Entertainment
- Participates in all department training, staff meetings, and activities
- Maintenance and Typhoon Preparation
- Media & Special Group Functions

For more information you may contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Ex. Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office located next to Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must include all necessary requirements and submitted to the Security Office.

AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

CLOSE OUT SALE — Former K's Wow Pao

- Bakery Equipment
- Noodle Maker
- 9' two door Stainless Steel Chiller
- 500 gallon Water Tank
- Generator

$6,000

For inspection of items & inquiry pls. call 235-1891, 286-4147, 789-5481

JOB VACANCY

J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position

SUPERVISOR

Please apply in person at the
J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.
Human Resources Office
Joeten Center, Susupe
Monday to Friday, 8a.m. - 5p.m.

(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution: Wagon train

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889 or 483-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

Commercial Space FOR RENT
in Garapan across GIG
Renovated to accommodate Restaurants
Please call 483-7634 for more info.

Computer Repair
FOR SALE
Laptop Mini 10.1 Acer $399
with a 10 hour computer tutorial.
Learn how to use communication, learn how to type, learn how to maintain and more…call for reservation only
For more info. Please call 233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

WAG ORIENT EXPRESS

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Find today's solution in this section

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-006	Deputy Director for Water Wastewater	[One Position]	Negotiable; Ungraded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Wednesday, January 20, 2010		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-007	Accounting Technician	[Four Positions]	$15,139 - $17,221	Two-year	Customer Serv., Billing, Credit & Coll., Saipan
10-008	Trades Assistant	[Two Positions]	$11,036 -12,692	Two-year	Water , Rota
10-009	Information Technology (IT) Analyst	[Two Positions]	$34,176 - $37,593	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-010*	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	[One Position]	$19,425 - $21, 610	Two-year	IT, Saipan

** This is a re-announcement of JVA 09-023. All applicants of 09-023 will be included in 10-010.*

Job Announcement

Zoning Enforcement Officer

COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct and supervise field surveys to inspect for, and verify compliance with, the Zoning Law and to collect land use information as instructed by the Zoning Administrator. Supervise and prepare notices of violation and other compliance documents for approval by the Zoning Administrator. Coordinate the field enforcement activities of the Zoning Officers, including serving violation notices, setting schedules, the design and implementation of information gathering procedures, and written follow-up. Manage all aspects of issuing, tracking, and processing zoning violation notices, including conducting pre- and post-notice consultations, reviewing for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and prepare written recommendations and reports. Maintain and publish zoning violation fine guidelines and schedules as approved by the Board and Zoning Administrator. Assure consistent and justifiable imposition of fines and enforcement actions. Seek legal advice as directed by the Zoning Administrator and coordinate enforcement notice procedures, fine imposition, and abatement actions with legal counsel and provide weekly written status reports to the Zoning Administrator. Gather, research and coordinate property leasing and ownership information with government agencies. Coordinate efforts and procedures for unsafe and derelict building violation enforcement and abatement with the Dept.of Public Works, Dept. of Public Safety and Dept. of Public Health. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: a Bachelor's Degree either in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 3 years of progressive experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field. The salary range is from $36,000 to $40,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Victor Barrett, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

SUBWAY Career Opportunities

SUBWAY, the largest quick service restaurant chain in North America and on Guam, is looking for career-minded individuals to grow with our management team!

Position: Operations Manager

Job Description:

Successful candidate will be tasked with managing multi-unit restaurants including:

- Personnel management-directly supervise five or more employees in the Store(s) assigned
- Leads and motivates team to ensure financial success of each store assigned and makes hiring, firing, disciplinary and evaluation decisions
- Estimates food and beverage costs and requisition or purchases supplies needed for the assigned store
- Analyze store financial performance and ensure satisfaction for each sandwich made
- Make scheduling decisions to adequately support sales of each restaurant
- Communicates with senior management to report on operational issues
- Supports implements and communicates company policies and procedures to all staff on a human resources level of for the stores betterment
- Continuously works to improve training and development of the team
- Investigates and resolves food quality and service complaints
- Maintain quality standards and sanitation regulations

**Candidate will also be entitled to performance based compensation and other benefits. Training program will be provided; salary to be based on job performance upon completion of training. **

Requirements

- Graduate with degree in Business Management from accredited institution preferred, but not required.
- Three to Five years training and/or experience in restaurant management preferred
- Must posses Reasoning Ability & Strong Communication Skills (Fluent English oral & written)
- Must have knowledge of Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet software and Microsoft Word Processing software
- Competent in Leadership, Quality Management, Problem-solving capabilities to promote teamwork.
- Eligible to work or reside in US/Guam or to travel in Japan for business assignment.
- Must have a valid health certificate, valid Drivers license, and passport for travel.

Please drop off resume (with recent photo) in sealed envelope, attention to Human Resources Department, at our Subway Development Agent office located at: 2nd Floor Transpac Business Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

**No phone call, please **

*Deadline for submission of application is on **January 28, 2010***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-002

CONSTRUCTION OF ENCLOSURE HOUSING FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE W.I.C. ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC BUILDINGS LOCATED ON NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Enclosure Housing for the Emergency Generators for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings Located on Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after Dec. 31, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid oil this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on Jan. 20, 2010, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located in W.I.C. Administration Building, Navy Hill Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on Jan. 25, 2010 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill Saipan or facsimile to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW10-IFB-002**". For bidders within the CNMI, all original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Jan. 29, 2010, and must be received no later than Feb. 09, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 12, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on Feb. 03, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNN41 Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00, The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government, The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Public Health

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW10-IFB-003

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE W.I.C. ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC BUILDINGS LOCATED ON NAVY HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation for the Emergency Generators for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings Located on Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after Dec. 31, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on Jan. 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m. local time at the project site located in W.I.C. Administration Building, Navy Hill Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on Jan. 25, 2010 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill Saipan or facsimile to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPWIO-IFB-003**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time Jan. 29 2010 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Jan. 29, 2010, and must be received no later than Feb. 09, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 12, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on Feb. 03, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

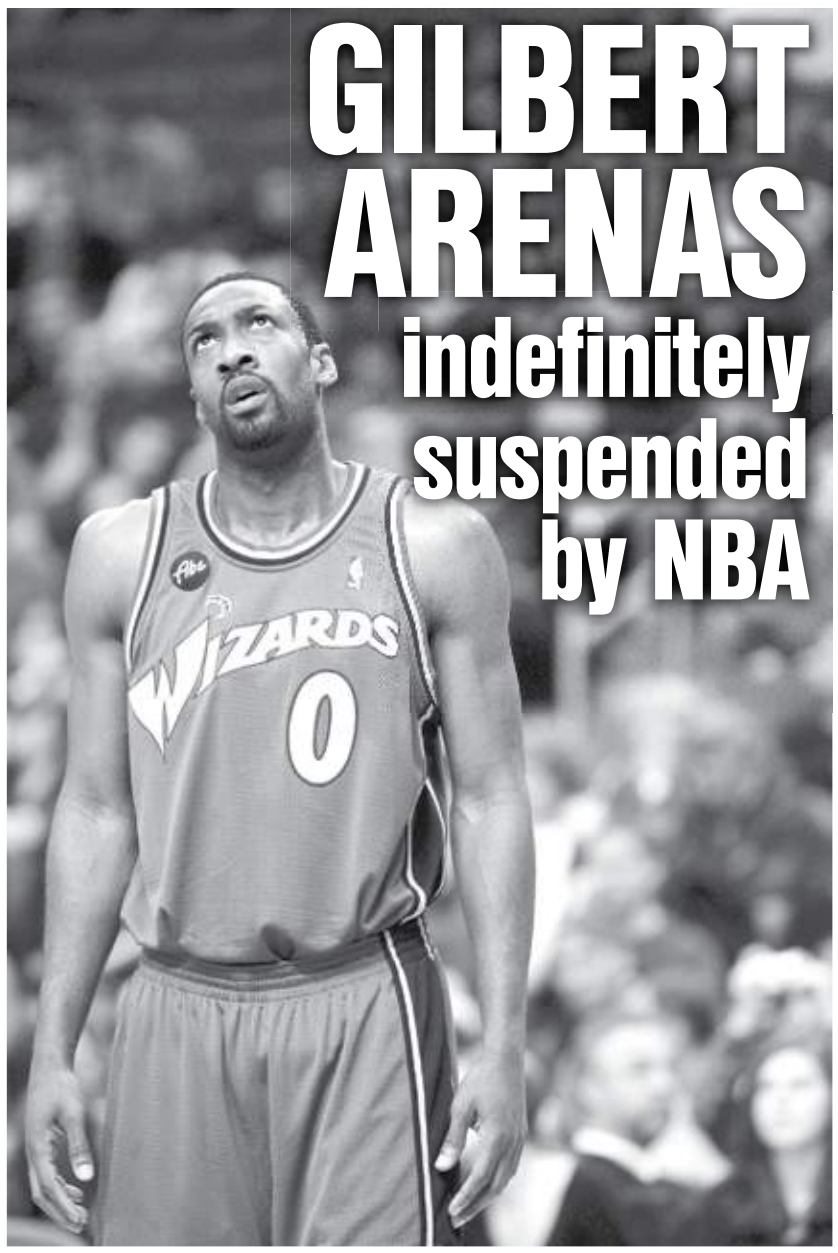
All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Public Health

GILBERT ARENAS indefinitely suspended by NBA



AP

In this Jan. 5, 2010 photo, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas watches a free-throw attempt in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers in Philadelphia.

NEW YORK (AP)—Gilbert Arenas tried joking about his gun trouble. David Stern found none of it funny.

Arenas was suspended indefinitely without pay Wednesday by the NBA commissioner, who determined the player's behavior made him "not currently fit to take the court."

A day after the Washington Wizards guard was photographed before a game in Philadelphia pointing his index fingers, as if they were guns, at his teammates, Stern warned the former All-Star that his conduct will "ultimately result in a substantial suspension, and perhaps worse."

Arenas is under investigation by federal and local authorities after admittedly bringing guns to the Wizards' locker room. Stern originally planned to wait to take action, but he tired of Arenas' behavior.

On Tuesday, a day after meeting with law enforcement officials, Arenas said he feared Stern more than the authorities because the commissioner was "mean."

Though Arenas first apologized Monday for his poor judgment and promised "to do better in the future", he also joked on Twitter about the incident and the media firestorm it created. That was exactly the wrong tact for Stern, whose league has taken another public relations hit.

"The possession of firearms by an NBA player in an NBA arena is a matter of the utmost concern to us," Stern said.

"Although it is clear that the actions of Mr. Arenas will ultimately result in a substantial suspension, and perhaps worse, his ongoing conduct has led me to conclude that he is not currently fit to take the court in an NBA game," Stern said in a statement. "Accordingly, I am suspending Mr. Arenas indefinitely, without pay, effective immediately pending the completion of the investigation by the NBA."

With each game he misses, Arenas will lose about $147,200 of the $16.2 million he will earn this season in the second of a six-year, $111 million contract. The punishment came on his 28th birthday.

"I feel very badly that my actions have caused the NBA to suspend me, but I understand why the league took this action," Arenas said in a statement through his attorney. "I put the NBA in a negative light and let down my teammates and our fans. I am very sorry for doing that."

Arenas added that he had called Stern to apologize.

"While I never intended any harm or disrespect to the NBA or anyone else, my gun possession at the Verizon Center and my attempts at humor showed terrible judgment," he said. "I take full responsibility for my conduct."

Arenas originally said he brought four guns to the Verizon Center because he wanted them out of his house after his daughter was born. But two officials within the league who have been briefed on the investigation have told The Associated Press that the incident stemmed from a dispute over card-playing gambling debts and a heated discussion in the locker room with teammate Javaris Crittenton. The *New York Post*, however, reported that the two teammates drew weapons on each other.

Arenas said in a statement Monday that he took unloaded guns from his locker in a "misguided effort to play a joke" on a teammate.

"Joke or not, I now recognize that what I did was a mistake and was wrong," Arenas said. "I should not have brought the guns to DC in the first place, and I now realize that there's no such thing as joking around when it comes to guns—even if unloaded."

Stern said members of the Wizards organization are still being interviewed by law enforcement authorities.

"Some are scheduled for appearance before the grand jury and the investigation is proceeding with the intensity that one would expect for such a serious incident," Stern said.

The Washington Post, citing two firsthand accounts of the confrontation, reported on its Web site that Crittenton brandished his own gun and loaded a clip of ammunition into it. Arenas spoke to the district attorney about Crittenton's loaded gun, a person with knowledge of Arenas' testimony told the Post.

Crittenton told the Post in a series of text messages that the account was "false."

"I have done nothing wrong. Let the investigation process take its course and you will see that," Crittenton told the Post. "My name is dying in this situation."

Arenas has been suspended once before because of a gun-related matter. He sat out Washington's season opener in 2004 because he failed to maintain proper registration of a handgun while living in California in 2003 and playing for the Golden State Warriors.

A text message left for Arenas by The Associated Press was not immediately returned.

A Wizards spokesman said Arenas left the team, which is playing in Cleveland, earlier Wednesday but didn't know where he was going.

"It's sad," Wizards guard DeShawn Stevenson said. "You don't want to see a player go down like that. We're a family, and it hurts."

The Wizards supported Stern's decision in a statement attributed to president Ernie Grunfeld and the Pollin family, which owns the team. The late Abe Pollin changed the team's name from the Bullets because of the violent connotation.

"Strictly legal issues aside, Gilbert's recent behavior and statements, including his actions and statements last night in Philadelphia, are unacceptable," the statement said. "Some of our other players appeared to find Gilbert's behavior in Philadelphia amusing. This is also unacceptable."

Union executive director Billy Hunter said the players association will wait until the investigation is complete before taking any action.

Since the firearms language was strengthened in the 2005 collective bargaining agreement, NBA players are subject to discipline if they bring guns to the arena or practice facility, or even an offsite promotional appearance. That gave Stern the option of taking action now instead of waiting until the completion of the criminal case, as he usually does.

Arenas' suspension deprives the Wizards of their top scorer and on-court leader. As it is, coach Flip Saunders' first season with the team has been a struggle: The Wizards entered Wednesday's game at Cleveland with an 11-21 record and in last place in the Southeast Division.

Clippers get rare win over Lakers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The resurgent Clippers held off the Lakers to win 102-91 on Wednesday, snapping a nine-game losing streak in the NBA's battle of Los Angeles.

Baron Davis scored 25 points and Chris Kaman added 21 points and 14 rebounds for the Clippers, who beat the defending NBA champions for the first time since 2006-07.

The Clippers have won five straight at home for the first time since a six-game winning streak in that same season.

Kobe Bryant scored 33 points as the Lakers' four-game winning streak ended.

Suns 118, Rockets 110

In Phoenix, the hosts were 16 points up, then 16 points down, before coming back to down Houston.

Steve Nash scored 26 points and had 12 assists and Amare Stoudemire added 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Suns.

It was a furious game marked by a series of remarkable runs. It was the second time this season the Suns had rallied from a 16-point deficit in back-to-back games.

Aaron Brooks topped Houston with a career-high 34 points.

Raptors 108, Magic 103

In Orlando, Florida, Toronto almost blew an 18-point fourth quarter lead before holding on to beat Orlando, further slicing the Magic's lead in the NBA Southeast Division.

Andrea Bargnani and Chris Bosh had 18 points apiece as Toronto won for the seventh time in eight games, getting back to a squared 18-18 record.

Toronto's lead was trimeed to two with 43 seconds remaining, but J.J. Redick missed a 3-pointer in the final seconds that could have tied the score.

Redick finished with 22 points for the Magic, who have lost three straight for the first time this season. Their lead in the Southeast was cut to just 1-1/2 games over Atlanta.

Celtics 112, Heat 106, OT

In Miami, Boston came from 11 points down in the fourth quarter to tie the game in a frantic finish to regulation, then beat Miami in overtime.

Dwayne Wade had his best game of the season for the Heat and seemingly gave them victory with a steal and dunk with 0.6 seconds left. But Boston's Rajon Rondo sank a buzzer-beating layup after catching Paul Pierce's lob.

Rondo scored 25 points, and Ray Allen 22 points for Boston, which maintains a fractional advantage over Cleveland in the scrap over the Eastern Conference lead.

Cavaliers 121, Wizards 98

In Cleveland, LeBron James piled up 23 points, eight assists and seven rebounds in just three quarters as Cleveland rolled to a comfortable win over Washington, absent troubled guard Gilbert Arenas.

Shaquille O'Neal added 17 points in 17 minutes as the Cavs posted a season-high for points and won for the 13th time in 15 games.

The Wizards played for the first time this season without Arenas, who was suspended indefinitely by the NBA a few hours before the game. He is being investigated by police after bringing unloaded guns to Washington's locker room.

Antawn Jamison scored 26 points to lead the Wizards.

Jazz 117, Grizzlies 94

In Salt Lake City, Utah overcame the absence of Deron Williams to beat Memphis.

Williams sat out with a sprained right wrist. He warmed up prior to the game, but was only able to shoot with his left hand.

C.J. Miles scored a season-high 24 points and Carlos Boozer added 20 for the Jazz.

Sam Young matched his career-high scoring 22 points for Memphis, which lost its first game in four.

Spurs 112, Pistons 92

In San Antonio, Tony Parker and Roger Mason Jr. keyed a decisive run early in the fourth quarter as San Antonio sent Detroit to its 11th consecutive loss.

A missed free throw in the final quarter would have given Detroit the lead, but San Antonio went on a 35-15 run from then on to put the game away.

Parker led San Antonio with 23 points, while the Pistons were led by Richard Hamilton's 29 points.

Hornets 97, Thunder 92

In Oklahoma City, New Orleans moved above .500 for the first time this season by beating Oklahoma City.

David West scored 19 points and Chris Paul had 14 points and 13 assists as the Hornets improved their miserable road record with victory at an arena they called home for two seasons following Hurricane Katrina.

Paul maneuvered into the lane and rolled in a layup with 11 seconds left to put New Orleans up 95-92.

Russell Westbrook missed an off-balance 3-pointer that would've tied it in the closing seconds.

Hawks 119, Nets 89

In Atlanta, the hosts had one of their best shooting nights of the season to end a four-game losing streak and beat struggling New Jersey.

Jamal Crawford scored 29 points and Joe Johnson added 20 while sitting out the fourth quarter.

The Hawks set a season high by making 13 3-pointers, including 10 in the first half. They made 57.3 percent of their shots from the field.

The Nets missed their first 11 shots and never led while falling to 1-17 in road games. They have lost 13 of their past 14 overall.

Yi Jianlian led New Jersey with 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Warriors 107, Timberwolves 100

In Minneapolis, Golden State snapped an eight-game road losing streaking by downing Minnesota.

Monta Ellis had 20 points, seven rebounds and six assists. Ellis, who entered the game leading the league in minutes played, found enough energy to tip in a missed 3-pointer with 1:05 to go that put the game out of reach.

Corey Maggette had 28 points for the Warriors.

Al Jefferson had 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Wolves, who have lost five in a row.

Shanahan debuts as Redskins coach, executive VP

ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—At the podium stood Mike Shanahan, who has a $35 million, five-year contract that gives him final authority over football decisions as head coach and executive vice president of the Washington Redskins.

Seated at a nearby table was Bruce Allen, the first general manager Dan Snyder has hired in 11 years of owning the team.

And nowhere on the stage was Snyder, who sat next to his wife Tanya as a member of the audience in the Redskins Park auditorium. It was the first time he hasn't introduced a new coach, a powerful symbol of how the balance of power has shifted within a proud franchise.

"Dan Snyder has directed us to please get this team back to the levels where it's been in the past," Allen said. "And I believe he's going to be our most supportive fan."

Shanahan made his formal debut Wednesday, one day after signing his contract and just two days after Jim Zorn was fired following a 4-12 season. The winner of two Super Bowls in the 1990s with the Denver Broncos spoke mainly in generalities with polish and confidence, far from the nervous and ragged performance given by rookie coach Zorn 23 months ago.

"It doesn't happen overnight," Shanahan said, "but we're going to give it the best shot we have."

For most of his time as owner, Snyder has been a hands-on manager yielding a strong influence on roster decisions. But the Redskins are 82-99 on his watch, missing the playoffs in eight of 11 seasons, so three weeks ago he hired Allen and ousted longtime front office confidant Vinny Cerrato.

Therefore, in less than a month, the Redskins have gone from an organization that revolved primarily around Snyder and his yes-man to one that includes two established decision-makers firmly in charge.

Shanahan, who had a similar arrangement with the Broncos, downplayed the power he's been given.

"I do have final say," Shanahan said, "but I never used it in Denver."

Snyder tried this once before with coach Marty Schottenheimer in 2001—before the two butted heads and Schottenheimer was fired after an 8-8 season. Snyder also deferred to Joe Gibbs when the Hall of Fame coach came out of retirement, but this is the first time the owner has taken this much of a back seat.

Shanahan made the playoffs in half of his seasons in Denver, and had only two losing seasons—6-10 in 1999 and 7-9 in 2007. His greatest successes came early, winning consecutive Super Bowls after the 1997 and '98 seasons with a team led by quarterback John Elway.

He was fired a year ago after the Broncos missed the playoffs for the third straight season.

Shanahan's career regular-season record is 146-98, including 138-86 with the Broncos from 1995-2008, and 8-12 with the Los Angeles Raiders in 1988-89. Shanahan's playoff record is 8-5.

"We needed a guy like Mike Shanahan," cornerback DeAngelo Hall said. "We needed a proven leader, a proven winner. He's definitely going to get these guys motivated and get the most out of all of them."

Andre Dawson elected to Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Andre Dawson got up at 6 a.m. and went to the gym. Before going back home, he took a detour from his usual routine on the day Hall of Fame voting is announced.

"I went by a cemetery to visit my mom and also my grandmother," he said. "It's the first time I had done that. I just felt a little bit more optimistic about this year, and I just wanted to share a few things at that grave site. It meant a lot to me to get out there."

Dawson's faith was rewarded a few hours later Wednesday, when he was elected to the Hall in his ninth try. He was the only player honored, as Bert Blyleven fell five votes short and Roberto Alomar finished eight shy.

Dawson received 420 of 539 votes in results announced by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, 15 more than the 75 percent necessary to gain election. The eight-time All-Star outfielder was 44 votes short last year.

"If you're a Hall of Famer, eventually you're going to get in no matter how long it takes," Dawson said during a telephone conference call. "As I sit here, the only thing I can think of is that it was well worth the wait."

He credited mom Mattie Brown and grandmother Eunice Taylor for teaching him to work hard with dedication and determination. He cried as he arrived at the cemetery, and thanked his mother for raising eight children without a father in the house. He hoped he made them proud.

"I told her, `I love you. I miss you. I wish you were alive so I could tell you that,'" he remembered saying.

AP

Former baseball player Andre Dawson smiles as he talks to reporters during a news conference at Landshark Stadium in Miami, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2010.

While they never saw him play in person, fearing he'd get hurt, they tracked his career from a distance.

"There were some instances where I may have made myself look like a fool out there on the field with some confrontations with the umpires," Dawson said. "I would get a call immediately. And you know, the question was: `Who do you think you are and what do you think you're doing?' And that, you know, kind of humbled me to a degree."

Dawson hit 438 homers with 1,591 RBIs in a career that spanned from 1976-96. Nicknamed "The Hawk," he was voted NL Rookie of the Year in 1977 with Montreal and NL Most Valuable Player in 1987 with the Chicago Cubs, the first member of a last-place team to earn that prize.

"It gave me new life, playing on a natural surface after playing in Montreal on artificial surface for 10 years," he said.

Joined by Barry Bonds and Willie Mays as the only players with 400 home runs and 300 stolen bases, Dawson also spent time with Boston and Florida. He never made it to the World Series.

A victim of owners' conspiracy against free agents after he left the Expos, Dawson signed a blank contract with the Cubs during spring training. Then-general manager Dallas Green filled in the dollar amount of $500,000, making Dawson the second-lowest paid regular on the team.

Known for his strong arm in right field, he had a .279 career average and 314 steals, playing through 12 knee operations. He's already had two knee replacements and may need another.

He will be inducted July 25 at Cooperstown along with manager Whitey Herzog and umpire Doug Harvey, elected last month by the Veterans Committee. Within 90 minutes of the announcement, Dawson had received 34 voice mails and 62 text messages.

Blyleven, who had 287 wins, 3,701 strikeouts and 60 shutouts, is likely to have a similar experience next year. He had 400 votes (74.2 percent), up from 338 last year, and gets two more tries on the BBWAA ballot. The highest percentage for a player who didn't enter the Hall in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983, his final time on the ballot.

Next year's vote also will include newcomers Rafael Palmeiro, Juan Gonzalez, Larry Walker, Jeff Bagwell, John Franco and Kevin Brown.

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HEO

From Page 36

last year and I feel more relaxed this year after going through several tough matches in the past," Heo added.

Heo is currently ranked No. 834, his highest in two years. In October last year after conquering the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and making it to the quarterfinals of a tournament in Fiji, Heo ranked at No. 1, 071. In July, after earning ranking points in New Caledonia, Heo climbed from No. 1,185 to No. 959.

"This year I want to reach the farthest I've ever reached in an ITF event," the 17-year-old player said.

Heo will be leaving for New Zealand on Jan. 18 to compete in the Sunsmart 18 and Under Canterbury Championships, Auckland 18 and Under ITF Summer Championships, and Tennis Central 18 & U ITF Summer Championships. He is also joining one men's tournament in New Zealand before seeing action in junior events.

In the Sunsmart tournament in Christchurch, Heo advanced to the quarterfinals of the doubles events and earned 10 ranking points. He teamed up with France's Maxime Chazal. In the singles event of the same tournament, Heo made it only to the Round of 64.

In Auckland, Heo advanced to the Round of 32 and 64 in the doubles and singles, respectively and marched to Round of 16 (doubles) and 64 (singles) in the Tennis Central 18 and Under ITF Summer Championships in Wellington last year.

Heo is waiting for the approval of his advanced parole application so he can travel to New Zealand and return to Saipan on Feb. 13.

"This (working on travel documents) is really a pain but I have to follow the rules," said Heo, who is a non-U.S. citizen, but was allowed to represent the CNMI to Junior ITF events after getting consideration from Oceania Tennis Federation.

PACQUIAO

From Page 36

Although neither side was allowed to publicly discuss the specifics of their dispute, Mayweather apparently balked at a compromise over the stringent drug-testing requirements his camp insisted upon.

"I knew this was going to happen," said a weary Bob Arum, Pacquiao's promoter. "You had to play it out."

Golden Boy chief executive Richard Schaefer and Mayweather adviser Leonard Ellerbe didn't immediately return phone messages.

The promoters went into the lengthy mediation Tuesday. Both sides claimed every other detail for the fight had been decided, but Mayweather had demanded random blood testing in addition to unlimited urine testing, with Pacquiao unwilling.

The fighters' representatives apparently thought they had a compromise after the mediation. The promoters were widely expected to formally announce the bout Wednesday—but subsequent discussions with Mayweather during the day led Top Rank to declare the fight canceled.

Arum was left fuming by Mayweather, who fought under Top Rank promotion for several years.

"I've been saying this for years: He's a psychological coward who doesn't want to fight anybody who has a chance of beating him," Arum said. "He walked away from a rematch with Oscar (De La Hoya) that would have paid him a fortune because De La Hoya held him close in the first fight (in May 2007)."

After stellar pay-per-view numbers from their previous fights, both Pacquiao and Mayweather likely stood to make more than $25 million from the welterweight bout. Mayweather returned to the ring after a 21-month absence in September with a victory over Juan Manuel Marquez, while Pacquiao (50-3-2, 38 KOs) pounded Miguel Cotto in November for his 13th straight victory since 2005.

Mayweather (40-0, 25 KOs) initially appeared eager to fight Pacquiao in a bout between two contenders for the title of pound-for-pound champion of the world. Both fighters quickly agreed to the initial points of a deal, with the fight scheduled for March so it wouldn't interfere with Pacquiao's run for political office in the Philippines.

But Schaefer then infuriated Top Rank by refusing to travel to a meeting with Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, who offered to pay lavishly to hold the fight in the NFL team's opulent new stadium. Schaefer's actions, apparently at Mayweather's behest, meant the fight went to the MGM Grand in Mayweather's adopted hometown with no real competition.

After Mayweather went public with his requests for drug testing that went beyond the standards of the Nevada Athletic Commission, Pacquiao filed a lawsuit last week alleging Mayweather and his camp defamed him by accusing him of using performance-enhancing drugs. That led to mediation, which apparently produced a solution acceptable to everybody except Mayweather, according to Arum.

Arum said there's "no chance ever of salvaging it for March, no chance for it ever to happen." He plans to propose a mid-March bout with WBA super welterweight champion Yuri Foreman to Pacquiao, who could become a champion in his eighth weight class.

CHURA

From Page 36

run homer to lead Chura to an easy win.

Lancheros had the best chance to score in the second inning when leadoff batter Jess Cabrera made it to third base on James Kintol's single. However, Cabrera was left stranded at third when Dimas Omar Sr., was thrown out on a 4-3 putout play for the third out.

Fred Kaipat and Lee Sablan added two RBIs each to help in Chura's win.

Ur Balls 28, Hitz 11

In the second game, Ur Balls ended Hitz's two-game winning run after nailing a 28-11 triumph.

Leftfielder John Paul Lizama went 4-for-5 at bat, scored only two runs, but had five RBIs to lift Ur Balls to a victory. Third baseman Vincent Sablan also hit 4-for-5 at the plate, made four runs, and tallied four RBIs. Mike Taitano, Giovanni Ayuyu, Harlan Reyes, and George Camacho chipped in three RBIs each.

Ur Balls blew the game wide open at the top of the seventh inning, scoring 10 runs. Ayuyu provided the highlight in the seventh inning with his three-run homer and Ur Balls went on to win the lopsided match when they shut out Hitz at the bottom of the last inning.

Ur Balls improved to a 3-2 slate, while Hitz dropped to a 3-3 record.

6-Pack 10, Ramblers 9

6-Pack survived Ramblers' rally, pulling off a 10-9 victory.

Ramblers threatened 6-Pack when third baseman Tony Pangelinan and second baseman Joe Quitugua scored back-to-back homers at the top of the sixth inning.

6-Pack managed to reach only third base at the bottom of the sixth, leaving the team with a precarious one-run lead, 10-9. 6-Pack then made up for its lackluster performance in the sixth inning with a tough defense at the top of the seventh. Leftfielder Paul Pua caught two fly balls, while pitcher Blas Magofna teamed up with third baseman Robert Repeki in tagging out Ramblers leadoff batter Noel Deleon Guerrero.

6-Pack now has a 4-2 record, while Ramblers absorbed their fifth loss in six matches.

NONI

From Page 36

robin regular season will move to the next round with the first two finishers gaining byes in the first round. The last four will slug it out in the single-elimination playoffs for the two remaining semis seats.

It was a come-from-behind win for Advance, which fell behind by 13 at the break, 35-48.

Freddie Pelisamen and Jun Estolas led X-Terminators in the third period when they scored eight points apiece, giving Advance's its first taste of the lead, 66-62, after a 2-0 count in the opening quarter.

Advance never relinquished the lead in the fourth period with Pelisamen and Estolas drawing help from Pando Muleta. Muleta had eight points in the final canto, including two free throws that ensured X-Terminators the win. Estolas also knocked down a pair of charities that helped Advance keep its distance against Diamond.

Estolas finished with a game-high 22 points while Muleta and Pelisamen chipped in 20 and 16 markers, respectively.

In the second half, Noni Saipan halted Cholos' fourth-quarter run to eke out an 86-79 triumph.

After leading by as much as 13, Noni Saipan saw its advantage down to two, 73-71, with less than six minutes left in the final quarter. Reynard Aranda's successive triples in the third and Pedro Lizama's early eight points in the fourth period brought Cholos back into the game.

However, Noni Saipan regained its bearings when Bart Demapan's three-point play sparked a short 8-0 to foil Cholos' comeback bid. Cholos muffed several chances to move even closer or steal the win when they missed a lot of layups in the closing minutes of the fourth period.

Kae Bernardo paced Noni with 28 points, while Ivan De Vero and Wowie Abuel added 18 apiece.

Aranda led Cholos with 23 points, making 14 straight points in the third period. Won Joo Jung contributed 21, but tallied only two points in the fourth canto, canning his lone field goal when the game was already decided.

First Game

Advance 84 – Estolas 22, Muleta 20, Pelisamen 16, Fitial 7, Guiab 6, Factor 5, De Guzman 2.

Diamond 79 – Barrios 19, Esdrelon 16, Berline 13, Artats 11, W. Capalad 8, M. Capalad 6.

Scoring by quarters: 17-24, 35-48, 66-62, 84-79.

Second Game

Noni Saipan 86 – Bernardo 28, Abuel 18, De Vero 18, Demapan 9, Galvez 3, Lerio 3, Tamayo 3, Pantaleon 2.

Cholos 79 – Aranda 23, Jung 21, Lizama 13, Kapileo 6, Apatang 6, Itibus 5, Coldeen 4, Mendiola 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-19, 49-37, 69-62, 86-79.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	8	.758	–
Toronto	18	18	.500	8 1/2
New York	14	20	.412	11 1/2
Philadelphia	10	24	.294	15 1/2
New Jersey	3	32	.086	23

Southeast Division

Orlando	24	11	.686	–
Atlanta	22	12	.647	1 1/2
Miami	17	16	.515	6
Charlotte	15	18	.455	8
Washington	11	22	.333	12

Central Division

Cleveland	28	9	.757	–
Milwaukee	14	18	.438	11 1/2
Chicago	14	19	.424	12
Detroit	11	23	.324	15 1/2
Indiana	11	23	.324	15 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	24	11	.686	–
San Antonio	21	12	.636	2
Houston	20	16	.556	4 1/2
New Orleans	17	16	.515	6
Memphis	17	17	.500	6 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	22	13	.629	–
Portland	22	15	.595	1
Oklahoma City	19	16	.543	3
Utah	19	16	.543	3
Minnesota	7	29	.194	15 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	28	7	.800	–
Phoenix	23	13	.639	5 1/2
L.A. Clippers	16	18	.471	11 1/2
Sacramento	14	20	.412	13 1/2
Golden State	10	24	.294	17 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 119, New Jersey 89
Cleveland 121, Washington 98
Toronto 108, Orlando 103
Boston 112, Miami 106, OT
Golden State 107, Minnesota 101
New Orleans 97, Oklahoma City 92
San Antonio 112, Detroit 92
Utah 117, Memphis 94
Phoenix 118, Houston 110
L.A. Clippers 102, L.A. Lakers 91

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	33	368	220	995	30.2
Anthony, DEN	32	331	272	961	30.0
James, CLE	36	363	253	1039	28.9
Durant, OKC	34	330	261	967	28.4
Wade, MIA	32	292	233	845	26.4
Ellis, GOL	32	326	152	821	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	33	295	209	823	24.9
Bosh, TOR	35	290	245	831	23.7
Roy, POR	35	285	181	799	22.8
Arenas, WAS	31	247	147	703	22.7
Johnson, ATL	33	276	105	710	21.5
Gay, MEM	30	236	129	624	20.8
Stoudemire, PHX	34	268	168	704	20.7
Kaman, LAC	33	282	107	671	20.3
Randolph, MEM	32	262	118	645	20.2
Evans, SAC	29	218	132	583	20.1
Duncan, SAN	30	240	121	601	20.0
Williams, UTA	32	228	131	625	19.5
Jennings, MIL	31	219	99	598	19.3
Boozer, UTA	34	263	129	655	19.3

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	153	238	.643
Gasol, MEM	184	297	.620
Howard, ORL	182	297	.613
Horford, ATL	191	327	.584
Hilario, DEN	183	315	.581
Lee, NYK	264	461	.573
Stoudemire, PHX	268	469	.571
Landry, HOU	198	349	.567
Bynum, LAL	185	328	.564
O'Neal, MIA	149	269	.554

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	33	121	317	438	13.3
Noah, CHI	32	130	263	393	12.3
Wallace, CHA	31	68	302	370	11.9
Camby, LAC	32	94	275	369	11.5
Randolph, MEM	32	150	215	365	11.4
Bosh, TOR	35	114	282	396	11.3
Lee, NYK	34	80	294	374	11.0
Boozer, UTA	34	72	289	361	10.6
Haywood, WAS	31	127	192	319	10.3
Duncan, SAN	30	88	218	306	10.2

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	34	381	11.2
Paul, NOR	24	251	10.5
Williams, UTA	32	312	9.8
Rondo, BOS	31	298	9.6
Kidd, DAL	34	301	8.9
B. Davis, LAC	33	259	7.8
James, CLE	36	279	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	34	247	7.3
Arenas, WAS	31	215	6.9
Duhon, NYK	34	220	6.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

UBA STANDINGS

Advance	6	0
Ol'Aces	5	1
Noni Saipan	4	2
Prospect	3	3
Hoopaholics	3	3
Diamond	2	4
Cholos	1	5
Trinity	0	6

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Island Rebels	5	0
Natibu	4	0
SaiPal	4	0
Man Amigos	5	1
Chura	4	1
San Roque	3	1
6-Pack	4	2
Freedom Air Flyers	3	2
Ur Balls	3	2
Hitz	3	3
Blazers	2	2
Red Eye	2	3
Berdax	1	2
G-Ballers	2	4
Calikano-Falcons	1	3
Team Familia	1	3
Lancheros	1	4
Team Fuegu	1	4
Ramblers	1	5
Go For Broke	1	5
X-Terminators	0	4

SEDA LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS

Masters Division

Jonny's Black Stallions	164	119
D' Pirate's M- Destroyers	159	119
Oleai Snipers	149	119
VFW Angry Dragons	135	119
Buds Brothers M	83	119
Oleai D' Companeros	75	119

A Division

Jonny's Black Stallions Jr.	148	119
Naked Fish Boyz	136	119
Jonny's Load Up	124	119
D' Pirates 101 Proofers	122	119
Bud's FUJIN	121	119
Bud's Enforcer	121	119
Bud's Brothers A	108	119
Bud's No Name	48	119

Tuesday B Division

D' Pirates CK Destroyers	154	119
D' Pirates "B" Destroyers	133	119
VFW Naughty Boyz	119	119
Buds Bring it on 1	102	119
Jonny's Samurai	87	119
Buds Bar Pure Budz	80	119

Thursday B Division

Buds Brothers B	189	119
Buds Bring it on 11	154	119
Remington Naughty Boyz	149	119
Buds B-Bwiibwis	148	119
USSP No Fear	143	119
Naked Man F.O.T.T.E	134	119
The Flair Salut Balut	130	119
VFW Dutty Gunz	106	119
Snicker N' Tuna Lights Out	98	119
The Flair Get Sum	84	119

C Kingfisher Division

Jonny's Wasabe	156	119
USSP Young Gunz	139	119
Bar Gaia Gaiana	137	119
VFW One Shot	122	119
Jonny's ADH	121	119
BYE	0	119

C Chichirika Division

Buds Bwiibwis "C"	134	119
Snicker's Lucky Shot	128	119
Buds C-Bwiibwis	122	119
D' Pirates Sang & the Gang	111	119
Buds Darty Deeds Dart Deux	104	119
USSP Bomsoro	76	119

Ladies Division

VFW Yakau	111	119
Tijuana B-52 Shooter's	102	119
Jonny's.Com	90	119
Snicker's Mama Sniper's	86	119
Buds Bwiibwis Mermaid	61	119

Northern Passage to hit road Feb. 6

A new mountain bike race will hit the road next month with the Northern Passage set for Feb. 6.

The race will start and end at the upper terrace parking lot at the Palms Resort Saipan and will have three courses, namely full, sports, and rookie. More details about the three courses will be announced later.

Cash prizes await the top finishers in the full course with the first placer in the men's and women's divisions winning $100 each, a one-night stay at Palms Resort with breakfast for two, and medals. Second placers will get a free 90-day membership to Palms and medals, while third finishers will take home a dinner certificate for two at the Palms and medals. Medals will also be awarded to the Top 3 finishers in the sport and rookie courses.

The top placers in the full course will have their name printed on the perpetual trophy, which will be on display at the Palms year-round, along with the photo of the Top 3 finishers.

There will also be raffle prizes at the awards ceremony with all riders eligible to win a new Trek Mountain bike from Michelob Ultra.

Registration is $20 and each participant will get a T-shirt, admission to awards ceremony (breakfast), and an all-day pass to the Palms Resort Saipan pool and fitness facilities.

Next month's event has already drawn the support of Palms Resort Saipan, IT&E, XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon, Saipan Bike Pro, Michelob Ultra, Brabu Pharmacy, Digital Motion, and Konflict Clothing.

To support the race or for more information, contact Brad Ruszala at 287-2723. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mieko Carey races with the main pack during last month's Hell of the Marianas. CNMI riders will return on the road next month with the staging of the Northern Passage.

NMA says kudos to Island Relay supporters

Northern Marianas Athletics would like to thank participants and sponsors of last month's 28th Annual Christmas Island Relay.

The annual relay run held on Dec. 27 lured more than 50 participants and drew support from 670 Rock Steady Shop, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. Micronesia, Inc., McDonald's of Saipan, Fotten Gaga' Empire Wear, Trench Tech Inc., Saipan Grand Hotel, All-Star Sporting Goods, Boarderline, NTT Docomo Pacific, Shell Marianas, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, DFS Saipan Limited, Adidas, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Because of all of these great companies that contributed to the event, every participant was able to win a fabulous prize for Christmas. The event could not have been merrier without your wonderful gift," NMA said in a media release.

Flow, which was composed of Paul Anthony, Nicole LeBlanc, Florence Antonio, Ryan Camacho, and Ronald Villafria, ruled the 13.7 mile-long race from the southern parking lot of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

The quintet timed in e hour, 34 minutes, and 50 seconds to beat Team Butterfly and Hoopaholics.

Mamiko Oshima-Berger anchored Team Butterfly, which was only seven seconds behind Flow. She teamed up with husband Joshua, Fred Camacho, Tamio Nishikido, and Shogo Ando and they timed in at 1:34:57. Hoopaholics, who were composed of James Lee, Jerry Diaz, Peter Mendiola, Joe Villacrusis, and Emily Matson, submitted 1:38:21.

The Patriots, composed of four members of Auther family, siblings John and Danny, mother Carol and father Joe, and Tom Linden, finished fourth with a time of 1:44:36.

The six other teams to complete the race were The Hangover (1:45:17), 4 Princess and A Prince (1:54:33), Santos Acres (1:58:12), Tawny's Terrorizers (1:55:21), Fans of Whispering Palms (2:00:09), and Extreme DFS (2:01:13).

Jack "Ketson" Kabiriel dominated the soloist division with his 1:44:06, beating Keum Bae Ji (1:48:44), Andres Buitrago (1:51:26), and Roy Ortiso (2:15:35). ***(NMA)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Team Butterfly pose for a group photo after completing the 28th Annual Christmas Island Relay last month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

D'Pirates CK Destroyers, seen here posing for a group photo, ruled the Tuesday B division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

CK Destroyers lead winners in SEDA league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League concluded last week with D'Pirates CK Destroyers leading the list of winners in the annual event.

D'Pirates had a 1-2 finish in Tuesday B division with CK Destroyers outclassing B Destroyers. CK Destroyers finished the league with a 154-119 slate against B Destroyers' 133-119. VFW Naughty Boyz claimed third place with its even 119-119 record, followed by Bud's Bring it on 1 (102-119), Jonny's Samurai (87-119), and Bud's Bar Pure Budz (80-119).

Another set of sister teams ruled Thursday B division with Bud's Brothers B placing first with its 189-119 slate and beating Bud's Bring it on 11 (154-119). Remington Naughty Boyz saved third place with a 149-119 slate. Completing the list and their final standings were Bud's B-Bwiibwis (148-119), USSP No Fear (143-119), Naked Man F.O.T.T.E (134-119), The Flair Salut Balut (130-119), VFW Dutty Gunz (106-119), Snicker N' Tuna Lights Out (98-119), and The Flair Get Sum (84-119).

Jonny's Black Stallions finished the 2009 season with a 164-119 record, six wins ahead of D' Pirate's M- Destroyers (159-119). Completing the Top 3 were Oleai Snipers (149-119). The Top 3 finishers will receive trophies during the awards banquet on Jan. 17 at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

Others entered in the Masters were VFW Angry Dragons (135-119), Bud's Brothers M (83-119), and Oleai D' Companeros (75-119).

Jonny's made it two in a row, as its Black Stallions Jr dominated A division after carding a 148-119 mark. Settling for second and third placers were Naked Fish Boyz and Jonny's Load Up, which ended up with 136-119 and 124-119 records, respectively.

Five other teams joined A division, namely D' Pirates 101 Proofers (122-119), Bud's FUJIN (121-119), Bud's Enforcer (121-119), Bud's Brothers A (108-119), and Bud's No Name (48-119).

Jonny's Wasabe (156-119) defeated five other teams for the C Kingfisher championship. In second place was USSP Young Gunz (139-119), followed by Bar Gaia Gaiana (137-119), VFW One Shot (122-119), Jonny's ADH (121-119), and BYE (0-119)

Bud's Bwiibwis "C" reigned in C Chichirika division with its 134-119 record. Completing the Top 3 were Snicker's Lucky Shot (128-119), and Bud's C-Bwiibwis (122-119). Other teams entered in the C Chichirika division were D' Pirates Sang & the Gang (111-119), Bud's Darty Deeds Dart Deux (104-119), and USSP Bomsoro (76-119).

VFW Yakau took the Ladies division crown with its 111-119 record, beating Tijuana B-52 Shooter's (102-119), Jonny's.Com (90-119), Snicker's Mama Sniper's (86-119), and Bud's Bwiibwis Mermaid (61-119).

CWGA first tourney of 2010 this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association will hold its first monthly tournament of the year this Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Tee time for the ladies competition at the west course of the Kagman facility is 11:30am with tee off set an hour later at 12:30pm.

For more information about the January golf tournament of CWGA, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

For more information about the club's monthly tournaments, call Noriko Togawa at 287-0027, Lou Kim at 483-5255, Terry Tudela at 483-1761, Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, and Bennet Seman at 483-0126. ***(CWGA)***

Northern Passage to hit road Feb. 6

The race will start and end at the upper terrace parking lot at the Palms Resort Saipan and will have three courses, namely full, sports, and rookie. More details about the three courses will be announced later. 35

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Gilbert Arenas indefinitely suspended by NBA

Arenas was suspended indefinitely without pay Wednesday by the NBA commissioner, who determined the player's behavior made him "not currently fit to take the court." 32

Heo saving his best for last

Ji Hoon Heo will leave for New Zealand on Jan. 18 to compete in three Junior ITF tournaments.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI netter Ji Hoon Heo saw limited action in the last two months of 2009, as he is preparing for his last year in the Junior ITF Circuit.

"This is my last ITF year and I will be going to college soon, so I want to accomplish as many things as I can," said Heo, who will be turning 18 next month.

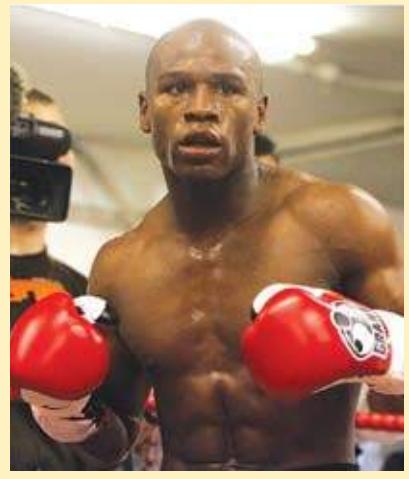
The Junior ITF Circuit is only for players in the 18-and-under age group and Heo had the privilege to join the elite group in 2008, earning his first ranking points early last year.

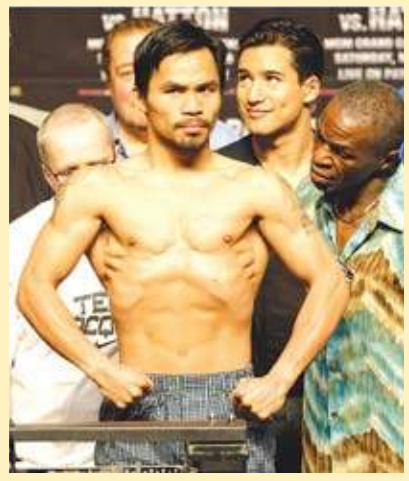
This year, the CNMI netter will be playing in three Junior ITF events in New Zealand and is hoping to gain more ranking points and surpass his previous performance in these events.

"I want to get more ranking points which will be very helpful in college. I am confident I can do it, as I gained a lot of experience

See HEO on Page 34

Pacquiao promoter says Mayweather bout is off





AP

In this combination of file photos, U.S. boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, prepares to spar at a gym in east London on May 22, 2009, and Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, weighs in for the junior welterweight boxing match against British boxer Ricky Hatton, May 1, 2009, in Las Vegas.

By GREG BEACHAM
AP SPORTS WRITER

Manny Pacquiao's promoters say his prospective bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr. is off after mediation failed to resolve differences over drug testing, scrapping what was likely to have been the richest fight in boxing history.

The bout was slated for March 13 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas, but Top Rank said it couldn't reach an agreement with Golden Boy Promotions, which represented Mayweather in the negotiations, after nine hours of mediation Tuesday and more discussions Wednesday.

See PACQUIAO on Page 34

Noni, Advance stave off foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Advance solidified its hold to the top spot in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League after thwarting Diamond Fixers, 84-79, on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Advance now holds a 6-0 record, a win away from sweeping the regular season. The victory also guaranteed the X-Terminators a bye in the first round of the playoffs. Only the Top 6 six teams after a round-

See NONI on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Noni Saipan's Kae Bernardo is clobbered by Cholos defenders during their game in the UBA caging on Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Chura shuts out Lancheros

Tyrone Omar, seen here waiting for the pitch, went 2-for-3 for Chura, which shut out Lancheros in the Chamolinian league on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chura blanked Lancheros, 14-0, during their game in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The victory was Chura's fourth in five games, allowing the team to keep pace with squads in the upper half of the 21-team league. Chura is just a win behind league-leading Island Rebels (5-0) and Man Amigos (5-1) and half a game from undefeated Natibu (4-0) and SaiPal (4-0).

Pitcher Mel Sakisat turned on the heat early for Chura, blasting a two-run single in the first inning, which ended with the eventual winner ahead, 6-0. After a fly out in the second inning, Sakisat redeemed himself in the fourth with a three-

See CHURA on Page 34